

*Safety and security for students and staff are top priorities at NPS schools and at Ghent School - below is information I hope you find useful.*

- All schools are required to create and update a crisis plan to be activated in the event of an emergency. While staff are trained to implement this plan, specific details in these plans are kept confidential to ensure maximum security effectiveness.
- At least twice a year, all schools conduct lock-down drills during which students and staff practice emergency procedures to block access to rooms. These lock-down procedures are evaluated for improvements after each drill. Ghent's second lockdown of the school year was held on February 9.
- If we – or you - see or hear something, say something - any person on any campus should immediately report concerns or possible threats to school staff for response. This includes disturbing social media posts or comments made that could be perceived as a threat.
- Our strong relationship with Norfolk PD, Norfolk Fire Department and other local law enforcement agencies allow us to constantly and quickly assess and respond to potential threats.
- All staff are required to have their NPS badge displayed at all times. All visitors must report to the front office upon entry.
- Cameras are used to monitor schools and facilities, with multiple screens on display in the main office (these are out of view to the public, unless they enter into the staff office area).
- Counseling and support services are always available. Parents can contact school staff if they notice disturbing changes in behavior or think their children may need mental/emotional support for any reason.
- Additional protocols and procedures are in place at every school and NPS facility, but are not disclosed in order to preserve safety and security.