



Hickory Public Schools

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Dr. Bryan Taylor, Superintendent

School violence, particularly gun violence, has once again found its way into schools in our state and across our country. Over the past six weeks, there have been two school shootings in North Carolina, one in Virginia and one in Tennessee. There have also been multiple reports of guns being found on school campuses.

HPS is taking proactive steps to enhance the safety of students, parents, and other community members at large gatherings on campus. Effective Friday, October 8th, HPS will put the following safety procedures in place at HHS home varsity football games:

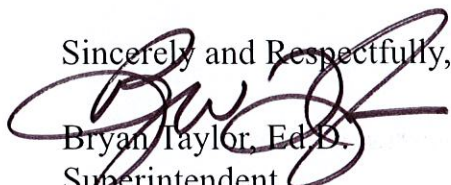
- 1. Limit fan access to certain areas of the stadium and campus**
- 2. Students in grades K-8 CANNOT attend a HHS home football game without an accompanying parent or adult (18 years of age or older).**
- 3. ALL fans attending will enter through walk-through metal detectors and be subject to additional wand searches if necessary.**

Please be reminded, knowingly possessing or carrying, whether openly or concealed, any gun, rifle, pistol, or any other firearm of any kind on educational property or extracurricular activity sponsored by a school is a Class I felony under North Carolina law.

In preparation for these new procedures, we will operate two admission gates. Both gates will open at 5:00 pm. Please arrive early to get through the screening process. We apologize in advance for any inconvenience these new safety procedures may cause. However, we believe the new procedures will enhance safety and improve the overall experience for our students, staff, families, and community.

Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding as we work to enhance security measures within our district and find ways to better protect our students, staff, and families.

Sincerely and Respectfully,



Bryan Taylor, Ed.D.
Superintendent

"Extending Excellence to Every Child, Every Day"