



PRAIRIE SPIRIT
SCHOOL DIVISION

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September 1, 2021

Dear Parent and/or Guardian:

Re: Caring, Healthy and Safe Learning Environments in Prairie Spirit Schools

Prairie Spirit School Division is committed to providing learning environments that are safe and caring places for students, staff, parents and community members. The Division's Caring, Healthy and Safe Schools strategy supports our students and staff to be healthy and safe at school.

In addition, Prairie Spirit works with other local school divisions and a variety of community organizations to put best safety and prevention procedures into place. This collaborative work, called the Community Threat Assessment and Support Protocol (CTASP), involves the entire community to support our safe schools and neighbourhoods.

When a student may pose a risk of violence towards themselves or others, the CTASP protocol facilitates sharing of information and advice between community organizations, such as Mental Health and Addictions Services, Ministries of Education, Justice and Social Services, as well as local police services and other organizations. As part of our commitment to CTASP, all our principals, vice principals and many other school leaders have benefited from training called *Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA)*. Because of our shared understanding and commitment to safety, we are well equipped to intervene and respond to a student in crisis.

VTRA is a multi-disciplinary, collaborative, problem-solving approach to preventing high risk behaviour and school violence. If a student makes a significant threat to harm themselves or others, the school's Threat Assessment Team, comprised of the school administrator, counsellor and School Resources Officer (RCMP/Police), determines how to best support the student so that their behavior does not become harmful or destructive.

For more information about our strategy for caring, healthy and safe schools, including [CTASP](http://www.spiritsd.ca/safe-schools), please go to our website: www.spiritsd.ca/safe-schools. If you have questions about our safety procedures, please contact your principal.

We will continue to work with you and our community partners to provide safe and caring schools for our students.

Sincerely,

Darryl Bazylak
Director of Education