



Diamond R-IV School District

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April 9, 2021

Dear Parents / Guardians,

I wanted to reach out and make sure that parents and guardians are fully aware of the updated Board Policy in regards to volunteers with the school(s). There have been some questions in regards to this policy as we are preparing to have our end of the year field trips.

Board Policy GBEC states, "The Diamond R-IV School District is committed to providing a safe environment for students to learn. As part of this effort, in accordance with this policy, the district will require criminal checks of employees as well as certain volunteers and others working on district property."

To further explain, a new law was passed and implemented in school districts of Missouri that requires volunteers to complete a background check prior to working with staff or students. In accordance with this law, all Diamond School District staff, volunteers, and parents will need to submit fingerprints as part of the new background check before volunteering in order to participate in activities during the 2020-21 school year. Unfortunately, Diamond School District cannot accept a background check from another organization unless it is through another school district. Background check appointment information may be obtained through <https://www.identogo.com/locations/missouri> and has a cost of \$39.50.

To provide additional clarification, the District defines a volunteer and visitor below:

Volunteers: Any individual who assists the District on an uncompensated basis and may be periodically unsupervised while with students. These individuals may volunteer to regularly assist in the school office or library, mentor or tutor students, assist with student activities before or after school, and help chaperone students on day field trips.

Visitors: Individuals that do not provide a service to the school or students. These individuals may be on school grounds to interact with their child(ren) or attend activities such as classroom parties, lunch with students, and assemblies. Visitors **do not** require a background check.

Field Trips: If a parent would like to attend a field trip as an observer with no interaction with the students, this will be considered as a visitor. If a parent / guardian has interaction with students in the classroom or on a field trip of any kind, then they will be considered a volunteer.

Volunteers are a vital part of the success of our students and our schools. Thank you to everyone who donates their time and talent to volunteer with the Diamond R-IV School District. The School District Volunteer Code and registration website can be obtained by contacting the school secretary.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at kwhite@diamonwildcats.org or 417-325-5189.

It's a great day to be a Wildcat!! BE THE CHANGE!

Dr. Keith White
Superintendent