



guidepost  
montessori



July 27, 2023

Dear Kent Families,

We wanted to provide more information on the security incident on campus today, our response, and our plans for the rest of the week and beyond.

**What happened:**

At approximately 1:45 AM this morning, 7/27/23, shots were fired from SE 240th St. into our parking lot at Kent. The police investigation is ongoing, but based on what we have learned so far, a group of individuals approached a vehicle in the parking lot and opened fire. Approximately 60 rounds were fired in total. A female passenger in the vehicle was struck and critically injured. Multiple rounds struck the outside of the building, and several rounds penetrated the walls and windows of Room #1 Children's House classroom.

The incident took place in the middle of the night, so the campus was unoccupied. We first learned what happened when our staff arrived to open the campus and encountered the police this morning. The Kent Police Department is treating the campus as a crime scene, and we have been informed that they will release the campus back to us this afternoon. The incident appears to be random, and we have no reason to believe that the shooting or any of the individuals involved were associated with Guidepost.

**How we are responding now:**

Our facilities team is already arranging for repairs of the damage, which will begin as soon as the police finish their investigation. At this time, we expect the school to be open tomorrow, with the exception of the affected classroom. We will be holding a staff meeting this evening to both support our team in processing these events and to prepare for the return of the children.

For Friday and at least through next week, we are providing several options for accommodating you and your children in the wake of this incident:

School will be open tomorrow, and your child may attend as normal. We will accommodate the children and staff from Room #1 in other spaces in the building until all the damage has been repaired.

If you would prefer, we can accommodate your children at our sister campus at Celebration Park.

If you would rather keep your child at home, Guidepost provides a number of online and virtual schooling options. If you would like to take advantage of these offers, we will provide you with complimentary access.

If you would like to take advantage of the Celebration Park or virtual option, please let Angel know.

**What we are doing long-term:**

This incident is deeply concerning, both in its severity and its senselessness. Considering these most recent and past incidents, a deep, fresh look at our physical security approach is required. Guidepost's regional and central teams – including our CEO, Director of Facilities and others from our Senior Leadership Team – are, and will remain, personally involved in this process. No option is off the table, and no past conclusion will be taken for granted.

We are engaging the Kent Police Department to help us assess and refine our strategy on campus security. We will also be looking into various potential campus security measures, for example installing additional fencing, securing the parking lot with gated access, and adding a staff member with security experience to our campus community. We also plan on contacting the manager of the apartment complex adjacent to the school, as previous security incidents (and perhaps this one) have involved individuals from the apartments using the school parking lot.

It is our sacred responsibility to ensure the safety and well-being of your children, and of our staff. We love our facility, our Montessori programming, and our shared community, and we believe we are helping your children unlock their human potential. As part of that holistic effort, we recognize we need to have an even more heightened focus on security. We will provide frequent updates – both on the incident and on our security measures – over the coming weeks. We would greatly value your thoughts, reactions, feedback and concerns as we work to build and maintain a learning environment for your children that is secure, welcoming, benevolent and joyful.

Sincerely,

**Angel Ignacio**  
Head of School