

## Official Statement February 5th Safety Measures

### Incident Overview and Immediate Response

FTCHS and the Philadelphia Police Department (PPD) are continuing our joint work as we follow school safety protocols governing student arrival, during the instructional day, and throughout dismissal.

On February 2, 2024, A fight involving several persons occurred after school. FTCHS officials, school security, and Arsenal security personnel quickly responded. One person, who is not a student at FTCHS, received emergency services for minor cuts and bruises, and was released the same day. Despite rumors, law enforcement has confirmed no fatalities associated with this incident have occurred. All personnel involved handled the situation with the expert professional care and ensured no additional injuries.

### Safety Plan Review and Reinforcement

FTCHS will hold meetings with each grade level on Tuesday, February 6, 2024 during the school day to review the school's safety plan and reinforce FTCHS's mission statement; held in collaboration with PPD School Resource Officers.

### Safe2Say Program Utilization

FTCHS utilizes a Safe2Say Program for students, families, and community members to access anonymously. The program's purpose is for reporting unsafe, potentially harmful, dangerous, violent, or criminal activities in any school in Pennsylvania. Once an individual makes a report, it is shared simultaneously with school and local authorities.

<https://www.safe2saypa.org/>

### Professional Development

FTCHS will hold a full day Professional Development for training our staff as relates to school health and safety on Monday 2/12/2024, as a result students will not report to school.

### Character-Building Initiatives

Beginning on February 13, 2024, FTCHS students will participate in weekly character-building exercises that support [FTCHS's Mission Statement](#).

### Police Presence

The police will be present at school during arrival and dismissal times this week to enhance security.

### Code of Conduct and Behavioral Expectations

The Franklin Towne Charter High School Administration and Board of Trustees are committed to upholding the highest standards of conduct throughout the entire school system. We will review the *FTCHS Code of Conduct* for all students and families to reinforce the standards at FTCHS as well as the consequences of violations.

### **Internal Investigation and Disciplinary Actions**

The FTCHS Administration is actively identifying violations of the school's code of conduct and will proceed with appropriate consequences for involved students, as well as family notification.

### **Social and Emotional Support**

We recognize the concern this incident has caused and are grateful for the support from our families and local authorities in maintaining a safe educational environment. FTCHS staff will offer social and emotional support to students affected by the incident during school hours throughout the week. Our goal is to ensure all students can attend school safely and participate in the instructional days as planned.

### **FTCHS Handbook page 18, Behavior Rules**

The Franklin Towne Charter High School Administration and Board of Trustees are committed to maintaining a safe and respectful learning environment for all members of the FTCHS community. With that in mind, following are some general rules of behavior at Franklin Towne Charter High School and the corrective actions for certain offenses. Behavior or conduct that violates school policy and/or state law that is not specifically addressed in the handbook and code of conduct shall be handled on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the severity of the offense.

#### **Scope of Rules of Discipline**

These rules may apply to any conduct:

- On school grounds during, before, or after school hours,
- On school grounds at any other time when the school is being used by a school group,
- Off school grounds at any school activity function or event,
- Traveling to and from school, including actions taken on a bus, van, or public conveyance,
- Off school grounds when the conduct may reasonably be expected to undermine the proper disciplinary authority of the school, the safety of students or staff, or encourage a disruption within the school.

### **Legal Implications and Equal Treatment Under School Policy**

NOTE: Internal school discipline actions shall not in any way deprive Franklin Towne Charter High School or an individual victim from pursuing any legal remedies available in the Criminal, Civil or Delinquency Courts of the Commonwealth. Regardless of age, all students at Franklin Towne Charter High School are treated equally under school policy. While students who are 18 years or older are adults in society, they are still subject to all school policies, guidelines, and rules as students at Franklin Towne Charter High School.

### **Contact Information for Concerns**

Should any student or family member have concerns, please contact Dean of Students Ms. Deb Ounan at [douan@franklintowne.org](mailto:douan@franklintowne.org).