



Evolv Security Screening System Information for GMHS Parents/Guardians

August 9, 2023

GMHS Parents and Guardians:

Groveport Madison Schools takes the safety of our students and staff very seriously. To enhance our existing security efforts at GMHS, beginning on August 16, we will launch the Evolv Detection System to screen students and visitors for potential weapons.

This decision was primarily based on results from last year's safety survey, where GMHS students, parents, and staff overwhelmingly supported using weapons detection systems in the high school.

The Evolv weapons detection screening systems are being deployed at the following locations within GMHS:

- Main Doors/Front Entrance
- Academic Wing Entrances
- Attendance Office

We also will have an Evolv screening detector at the main entrance to the Cruiser Accel building.

All students and guests entering either of the buildings will walk through the Evolv screening detector. Staff are not required to be screened through the system.

Students Arriving by District Buses

As buses unload, students will be directed to the appropriate entrance into the academic wings. They will be directed to leave approximately three feet of space between them and the classmate in front of them as they near the Evolv screening detector. They also will need to remove their Chromebook from their backpack and prepare to hand it to a staff member when they get to the detector. We already know that most Chromebooks will set off the detectors, so the computers will be passed around the screening device and returned to them once they've successfully gone through the detector.

Students will wear their backpacks and carry any other items (instrument cases, purses, gym bags, etc.) through the detector for screening. They will simply walk through the screening system and follow the instructions of staff members stationed there to assist them.

Students Arriving by Car

Students being dropped off and those parking in the north parking lot will enter through the main entrance and follow the same procedures noted above. **Students can no longer enter the building through the north parking lot (athletic wing) doors.**

About the Evolv Screening System

The Evolv screening detector uses artificial intelligence and sensor technology to determine if an individual has a weapon on their person or contained within any items passing through the sensors. The detector can distinguish between a phone, keys, or other personal items from a potential weapon. The technology is quick and can screen ten times faster than traditional metal detectors, reducing long lines and wait times.

The Evolv screening detector is the same system that's scanned more than 350 million people in the US (second only to the Transportation Security Administration/TSA). This technology is used at locations around the U.S., including hospitals and schools, theme parks, stadiums, houses of worship, and workplaces. The Evolv system is also used at Columbus Crew Stadium and First Energy Stadium in Cleveland.

What if the System Alerts When I Go Through it?

If an individual has an object resembling a weapon on their person or in their backpack, a low-volume alarm and a visible red light will alert staff of the potential threat. At the same time, the scanner will send an image to a tablet screen that shows the area where the potential threat is located. The individual will then follow the school's secondary screening guidelines, where staff will direct the student to empty their pockets, backpack, or belongings based on where the tablet identified the location of the threat.

Students who refuse to walk through the scanner lane for screening or a search may be subject to disciplinary action for defying the valid authority of District staff.

Screening Through the Attendance Office

After 7:30 AM, we will secure the main entrance, and all students will enter the building through the attendance office door. They will be checked in, given a tardy pass, and screened before entering the rest of the building.

Initial Delays are to be Expected

Undoubtedly, this will be a significant change in our morning arrival process, and we should expect delays for the first week or two of the school year. From our discussions with other schools that have implemented the Evolv system and our observations of those systems in operation, students quickly become accustomed to the new procedures, and arrival screening moves very efficiently, allowing students to get to class without additional delays.

General Safety Precautions

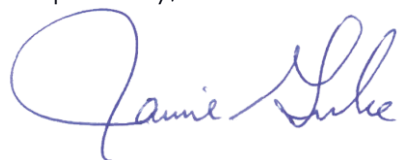
A critical measure in maintaining a safe and weapon-free environment is keeping exterior doors always locked and secured. Students should never open a non-monitored exterior door to allow another student or visitor to enter the building. Allowing students or visitors to enter the building at any entrance that's not being monitored puts us all at greater risk, and it defeats the purpose of having screening detectors in the first place.

More Information

The District has set up a webpage with frequently asked questions, a video, and other information to help keep you and our community informed. It can be found at GoCruisers.org/EvolvScreeningDetection.aspx.

Your son or daughter is receiving a similar email from me. I encourage you to discuss these new procedures with them and stress the importance of following the directions of those overseeing the scanning process and our collective commitment to keeping them and their classmates safe.

Respectfully,



Jamie Grube
Superintendent
Groveport Madison Schools