



# SOUTHTECH SCHOOLS SYSTEM

*Florida Department of Education Approved Local Educational Agency*



**Nicole Handy**, PRINCIPAL  
**Kevin Hardy**, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

**James R. Kidd**  
SUPERINTENDENT  
**John-Anthony Boggess**  
DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT  
**Eric Messmer**  
DIRECTOR—ADULT EDUCATION

**Erin Kurtz**, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL  
**Eileen Turenne**, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL  
**Julie Williams**, GRANTS/SUPPORT ADMIN  
**Shawna Kingsley**, ESE/IDEA SPECIALIST  
**Kathryn McInerney**, FINANCIAL OFFICER  
**Jennifer Melillo**, HUMAN RESOURCES MGR

March 2, 2018

Dear SouthTech Families,

In the wake of the Parkland tragedy, SouthTech Schools wants to reassure you that student safety is our first priority. Our team of administrators has secured both campuses to the highest level possible. Event drills and practices have been established to ensure occupant safety. Staff has been instructed to keep classroom doors locked at all times, and all life safety drills are practiced in accordance with Florida State Statutes. School-wide vigilance against trespassers has been practiced as a matter of habit.

## **Student Discipline and Social Media**

Students showing intent on social media to bring weapons to campus, or making threats of any nature against our schools, will face severe disciplinary action. It is imperative that families have open lines of communication with their children in regards to the appropriate use of social media.

SouthTech Schools began implementing the STOPit K12 Solution for the 2017-2018 school year. This is an app which aligns with the way students communicate today—allowing them a private place to anonymously upload and report things they see in and beyond our schools' boundaries.

Additionally, the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office has arranged for students and parents in Palm Beach County to have a new app called "Student Protect"—a platform for students to say something if they see something, both anonymously and in real time.

## **Student Advocacy**

SouthTech Schools is proud to have successfully channeled the activism of student leaders by inviting them to be part of an administratively sanctioned Walk-out at SouthTech Academy on Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Thanks to a cooperative effort between Administration, teachers and students, Team SouthTech was able to facilitate a Walk-out and Commemorative Ceremony for hundreds of students who chose to participate. Those who opted out of participation were directed to an alternate location. Teachers and administrators joined the students, who honored those who died at Stoneman-Douglas, in a peaceful, coordinated effort that kept everyone on campus and, most importantly, safe.

This event allowed our students' voices to be heard. Their overarching message was that school safety is of prime importance. SouthTech's experience is a prime example of how students and administrators can effectively work together for a common issue. It is my hope that our event can be used as a best practice not only for Palm Beach County Schools, but schools everywhere.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact SouthTech Schools Administration or School Counselors. I may be reached at (561) 369-7011. Remember that all of us—school staff, parents, and students—are partners in maintaining a safe school environment, and everyone is encouraged to report suspicious activity of any kind to school personnel. Please join me in wishing for the comfort and healing of our colleagues, families, and friends in the Parkland.

Sincerely,

James R. (Jim) Kidd  
Superintendent

SouthTech Schools, a state-approved LEA, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or sexual orientation, marital status, age, religion, disability, genetic information, gender identity or expression, or any other characteristic prohibited by law. For questions contact 561-369-7042.

[www.southtechschools.org](http://www.southtechschools.org)

STA 1300 SW 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Boynton Beach, FL 33426 • (561) 369-7000 • fax (561) 369-7024  
STPA 1325 Gateway Blvd., Boynton Beach, FL 33426 • (561) 318-8087 • fax (561) 318-8294



**"CREATING SUCCESS STORIES...ONE STUDENT AT A TIME"**