

Dear Gladwyne Elementary School Families,

Starting next week, Gladwyne will begin implementing two recommendations that grew out of the work of the School Safety Task Force. These recommendations were approved by the Board of School Directors in February. You and other visitors will notice the changes below, which will be rolled out to the other elementary schools and then secondary schools in the upcoming months.

**Security Guards:**

LMSD has contracted with [Advanced Protection Company](#) to provide security guards at school entrances during the school day. The guards will monitor security cameras and register all visitors to protect against unauthorized persons entering school grounds or buildings.

The guards will not be armed. They will not monitor student behavior or discipline students.

As is our current practice, all visitors to school buildings will be required to present a valid photo ID prior to being admitted.

Our security guard, David Dickerson, has experience in a similar position at Coatesville High School. He will be shadowing our secretaries the week of May 6th and will be on duty outside the main office following his getting acclimated.

**Raptor Technology:**

The new security guard will use the [Raptor® Visitor Management](#) as a tool to screen and keep track of school visitors. Visitors will present their driver's license or another form of ID to the security guard, who will use the Raptor® system to check it against a database of registered sex offenders and against other information (such as custody agreement arrangements, protection from abuse orders, etc.) entered by the District. If the information warrants, visitors may still be granted entry, but will be escorted throughout their visit, at the discretion of the principal.

Visitors who are cleared will receive a printed visitor badge, including their photo, the date of their visit and their school destination. The system will also be used to ensure that volunteers have their up-to-date state-mandated clearances. Once a visitor or volunteer's ID is in the system, they will just need to give their name for subsequent visits.

[Click here](#) for FAQs about Raptor® Visitor Management.

Sincerely,  
Veronica A. Ellers  
Principal, Gladwyne Elementary School



LOWER MERION  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

**RAPTOR**<sup>®</sup>  
TECHNOLOGIES  
THE GOLD STANDARD IN SCHOOL SAFETY

## **Introduction**

Raptor Visitor Management is a web-based software application that has been developed for the purpose of aiding educational facilities to ensure that people entering the building are legally cleared to access areas in which contact with students will be likely or possible. Raptor will allow our schools to electronically check all visitors against a registered sexual offender database, produce a visitor badge, and monitor all visitors once inside our buildings. The overall goal of implementing Raptor is to better control access to all Lower Merion School District buildings; thus providing enhanced protection for our students and staff.

## **What is the Raptor system?**

Raptor is a visitor registration system that enhances school security by reading visitor drivers' licenses, comparing the information to a sex offender database, alerting campus administrators if a match is found, then (assuming no match was made) printing a visitor badge that includes a photo and visitor location, as well as the time and date of the visit.

## **How does it work?**

Drivers' license information is compared to a database that consists of registered sex offenders from all 50 states. If a match is found, campus administrators and security personnel will take appropriate steps to keep the campus safe.

## **Why is Lower Merion School District using this system?**

Safety of our students is our highest priority. Raptor will provide a consistent system to track visitors and keep away people who present a potential danger to students and staff members.

## **What other information is the school taking from drivers' licenses?**

Raptor is only scanning the visitor's name, date of birth, partial license number, and photo for comparison with a national database of registered sex offenders. Additional visitor data will not be gathered and no data will be shared with any outside company or organization.

## **What if a visitor refuses to show identification or does not have a photo ID?**

A building administrator will be contacted so they may question the individual and explain the process to them. The administrator, based on this knowledge of the person and situation, can make a determination to allow entry or refuse access to the facility and/or a student, or at the administrator's discretion, the student and visitor can meet in the office.

**Do we have to give listed sexual offenders and predators access to our school?**

Generally speaking, unless the individual is wanted by the police, and as long as they have a legitimate reason to be on campus (e.g., visiting a legal dependent), we will not give a blanket “no.” However, such individuals will only be given limited access and will be accompanied at all times by an adult representative of the school. Building and district administrators will make the final determination regarding allowing visitor access to the building and to what extent.

**Does Lower Merion School District have the right to require visitors to produce identification before entering the campus?**

Yes. It is our responsibility to monitor who is on our campus, why they are there, and particularly if a student is involved (e.g., early pickup) – be able to confirm that an individual has the authority to have access to the student. The best way to ensure our students’ safety is to ask for this information as an extra security measure.

**Privacy and Data Security Information**

**Data Security:**

In addition to requiring unique usernames and passwords for each user of the Raptor system, the system utilizes firewalls, intrusion prevention systems, host integrity monitoring, and port filtering as well as the latest security processes and procedures to protect all its systems. All information transmitted to the Raptor Technologies servers during the login/sign in process is encrypted using 256-bit AES encryption and utilizes a nationally-recognized cloud provider.