

RAPTOR[®]

TECHNOLOGIES

THE GOLD STANDARD IN SCHOOL SAFETY

CASE STUDY

With Raptor Emergency Management[®], Seminole County (FL) Public Schools Named Model District by Marjory Stoneman Douglas Commission

CHALLENGE

Prior to the 2017-2018 school year, Seminole County Public Schools in central Florida had an emergency operations plan that left offsite parent-student reunification up to the individual schools. Each school principal was required to coordinate post-emergency reunification efforts, using school staff to supervise, move, and reunify students with their caregivers. With nearly 70 schools in the district, that meant nearly 70 individual response plans. In addition, reunification sites were generally chosen for convenience—usually at other schools or churches within walking distance.

In 2016, the district had reconfigured its school safety and security office and contracted with the Seminole County Sheriff's Office to supply the school safety and security director and his staff. As part of the reorganization, School Safety Lieutenant Kelly Martin undertook a reevaluation of elements in the emergency plan, including reunification. "We realized that the reunification plans were really not adequate," says Martin. "For instance, in an active shooter situation, walking a school full of kids to a neighboring building would be completely unsafe. The students and staff could just as easily become victims as anyone still inside the school." Martin also knew that the plans didn't account for the impact of an influx of parents or media to an incident, including the reunification site. "We designated and trained a standing, district-wide reunification team and designated a couple of very large locations capable of handling any large-scale reunification we might experience at any school."

SEMINOLE COUNTY (FL) PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Seminole County Public Schools serves Pre-K-12 students in Seminole County, Florida, northeast of Orlando.

- 69 schools (37 elementary, 12 middle schools, 10 high schools, 6 Alternative, 4 Charter): 67,000 students
- 82 sex offender alerts, 8 custom alerts since implementation of Raptor[®] Visitor Management; 300+ safety drills conducted with Raptor Drill Manager[®]

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— Kelly Martin, School Safety Lieutenant, Seminole County (FL) Sheriff's Office

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“We also knew we needed to ensure that the redesigned reunification protocols would be faster, more efficient, and more accurate than what pen-and-paper reunification methods could give us,” Kelly says. So, Seminole County turned to a proven school safety partner.

SOLUTION

Seminole County Public Schools had been using Raptor® Visitor Management to screen school visitors, contractors, and volunteers since 2016 with great success. “We were happy with how well the Raptor system worked for visitor management, and we knew that Raptor was offering an integrated emergency tool that included an app for efficient reunification,” Martin says. “It just made sense to use it.” The Raptor Emergency Management solution combines proven emergency response practices with the latest mobile technology to facilitate drill management, active incident response and accountability, and parent-student reunification and is 100% aligned with the “I Love U Guys” Foundation’s Standard Response Protocol (SRP) and Standard Reunification Method (SRM).

“As a result of the incident at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, we fully implemented Raptor Emergency Management and ran a full-scale reunification exercise in the spring of 2019. Both of those logistical processes were relatively easy for us because we had been thinking through these things before the incident at Parkland,” explains Martin.

RESULTS

The district’s reunification exercise was a success. “We were really pleased with how well everything worked and how quickly and efficiently the Raptor app kept everyone on top of the accountability and reunification processes, even with the obstacles we included, such as ‘media infiltration’ and role-players posing as emotional parents. Communication through the app is immediate, and the Sheriff’s Office and other first responders appreciate how well it works. We’ve also been very pleased with the drill management tool. We require schools to use the app once a quarter for drills, but what we’ve seen is that schools are generally using Raptor for every drill—it’s that easy. Everyone has really embraced the Raptor system,” Martin says.

Seminole County already enjoyed a reputation as a progressive district with regard to school safety prior to Parkland. “Now, every Florida district is required to have a school safety specialist, but we already had that, and it was a sworn peace officer. The MSD Commission surveyed different sized districts’ reunification policies and plans, and we were one of the few that not only had a plan in place, but we had a proven system that we’d actually practiced,” says Martin. “When the commission reviewed survey results, it described Seminole County as a ‘model’ for other Florida districts to emulate, in part thanks to Raptor Emergency Management.”

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**PROTECT EVERY CHILD,
EVERY SCHOOL, EVERY DAY.**

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