

Carl Sandburg Middle School Interior Video Monitoring Information

The CSMS Administration Team is in the initial stages of the process to install interior video surveillance (CCTV) for 2019-20 school year. We had exterior cameras installed last year. We feel that installing CCTV is an important step to continue providing a safe and secure teaching and learning environment for staff and students. We have taken clear steps to improve safety and security at CSMS, with the addition of extra security staff. Our CSMS staff was surveyed and 93% are in favor of this security upgrade. Mr. Barker will share this plan at our PTA meeting, on March 19, 2019 at 7 p.m. Mr. Barker will meet with the CSMS Student Government Association, in the coming weeks, to elicit their opinions about the potential CCTV installation. Families will have an opportunity to share their feedback through an upcoming digital survey.

The Carl Sandburg Middle School administrative team believes that internal cameras will increase the ability to maintain the safety of all students, staff members and visitors within the building. Internal cameras will only be placed in the high traffic areas and will not be placed in classrooms or restrooms. In total, CSMS is proposing to install (an estimated) 25 internal cameras.

The effectiveness of internal video monitoring has been shown to reduce theft and vandalism, as well as aid administrators in timely and accurate determinations in student/staff and building incidents. Seventy seven percent of all public high school currently use security cameras to monitor schools (Indicators of School Crime and Safety, U.S. Department of Justice and Education, November 2010). Locally, the school divisions that utilize interior video surveillance include the Maryland divisions of Frederick County, Montgomery County and Prince George's County. In Virginia, Alexandria, Loudoun, Prince William, Fauquier, Stafford, and Culpepper School divisions utilize interior cameras. Within Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) all high schools.

Interior cameras are not meant to be an invasion of privacy, but an additional layer of security in a complex world in which we live. They are considered fundamental to school security programs. Cameras will not be personally monitored, but footage would be available for review up to 30 days in case of an incident. The only persons who would see the video are FCPS staff who need to review and use the images in the course of their official duties. This is typically security and administration. Parents/Guardians may view images only of their own student and may not have copies of footage. Parents/Guardians will be notified if video has been reviewed regarding their son/daughter.

The installation of interior cameras at CSMS will cost approximately \$25,000. The funding for the project is being determined and may require CSMS raised funds. However, there will be no impact on instructional funds.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is interior video surveillance? Video cameras and other imaging devices may be used for ongoing monitoring of building interior and exterior areas. These areas include, but are not limited to, parking lots, perimeters, entrance and exit doors, cafeterias and other specific interior areas identified by the principal that warrant monitoring. Ongoing video monitoring may not be used in classrooms and areas that have a reasonable expectation of privacy, such as restrooms and locker rooms.

Will the video cameras be monitored continuously? No, they will not be routinely monitored, but rather, will be reviewed after an incident occurs. Security personnel in the office of safety and security may access video cameras and images when necessary for their official duties. An example is a school alarm after hours.

How long will the images be retained? By regulation, they must be stored for at least 14 days and not more than 30 days.

Who can view the images? FCPS staff who need to review and use the images in the course of their official duties may do so. This is typically limited to administrators, security personnel and personnel engaged in disciplinary reviews. The School Resource Officers and the School Liaison Commander are allowed to view the images because they are considered school officials, however no other police personnel are permitted. Parents may view images of their own students. When a video involves more than one student, the parents of any student who is a primary subject of the video may review the recording but may not have a copy. Parents of students who are in the background do not have a right to view the recording. Employees may view images in which they are the subject.

Who will these videos be released to? Disclosure of student images to individuals or organizations outside FCPS may be made only with parent consent (or student consent if the student is 18 years of age or older), in response to subpoena, search warrant or court order, in connection with a health or safety emergency, in response to legal action against the system, or consistent with one of the other exceptions to the disclosure ban in the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act regulations.

Are there future costs? The surveillance systems come with a 3-year parts and labor warranty and thereafter are covered under a preventive maintenance and repair contract currently funded centrally. As the number of cameras increase in FCPS, these contract costs are expected to rise. Additionally, once a school receives their initial permission to implement interior video cameras, the principal may consider adding additional ones in the future, if circumstances warrant an expansion.

What is the funding source? Principals should provide information on the identified funding that may include non-instructional school based funds, any available proffer funds and, if applicable, any intention to seek bond funding for infrastructure components that have an appropriate life expectancy. Once permission is granted to proceed, bond funding requests may be made to the office of safety and security.

If you obtain interior video surveillance, what reporting does the school have to do? Schools that are granted permission to utilize ongoing interior video monitoring are required to submit data regarding the number of incidents in specific areas of the schools in which cameras have been installed and the number of successful investigations of incidents using video recordings. Successful means that the video was helpful in determining what happened in an incident. Additionally, the superintendent is required to

annually report to the School Board incident and survey data collected regarding the effectiveness of ongoing interior video monitoring.

Are the cameras effective? The experience of FCPS with exterior video surveillance strongly suggests that their use resulted in significant reductions in vandalism at schools that used the systems. FCPS also performed a pilot test of surveillance in the lunch lines to determine if the existence of video cameras were helpful in reducing theft. This pilot test did not show that they were successful in reducing theft, although the principals of the test sites did note that they saw a reduction in inappropriate behavior in the lunch lines.

Do other school systems use interior video surveillance? Seventy-seven percent of all public high schools use security cameras to monitor schools (Indicators of School Crime and Safety, U.S. Departments of Justice and Education, November, 2010). Locally, the school divisions that utilize interior video surveillance include the Maryland divisions of Frederick County, Montgomery County and Prince George's County. In Virginia, Alexandria, Loudoun, Prince William, Fauquier, Stafford, Culpepper and Alexandria school divisions utilize interior cameras. Washington D.C. also uses them.