



A SECURE SCHOOL AND SAFE STUDENTS

Danielle Harris is Assistant Principal at Wiscasset Elementary School. “My key responsibility is making sure that the students stay safe at all times,” she declares. “That’s number one.”

To help ensure student safety, Wiscasset Elementary relies on security and camera systems from Cunningham Security. “Cunningham has made sure that the most important locations have cameras that run 24/7,” Harris explains. “We have 16 different cameras and they’re on all of the doors. We can see inside and outside the building. Of course, we can also tell if somebody is in the building who shouldn’t be and monitor the door when people are trying to gain entrance.”

The elementary campus has a rich history. Originally built as a middle school, it has been retrofitted to work as an elementary, while preserving its historic gym, a point of community pride. “The gym is like the center of

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the school,” Harris says. “Off of that we have a couple different wings with older children on a second floor of a large wing and our kindergarten students the farthest away from the office. The building is very spread out from all the different additions over the years.”

This sprawling building can prove a challenge when Harris needs to respond quickly to student needs or an incident. It makes it impossible to personally monitor the whole facility. That’s where the cameras come in. The school has a large television in the office where administrators and faculty can view a live feed of what’s happening around the building. “The secretary

uses that quite often,” Harris says, “to see if a child has gotten back to their class or if somebody’s in an area of the building. If we’re looking for a particular student, we can quickly check the cameras and see if we can locate them.”

On her own desktop, Harris can pull up video history that lets her review past events. If something occurred when a person moved from one door to another or down a corridor, she can watch the relevant videos to piece together exactly what happened and where the individual was at any time.

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SECURITY TO MEET COMMUNITY NEEDS

The cameras are one part of a larger security system that Cunningham manages for the school. “When the custodians arrive in the morning,” Harris explains, “they disarm the security alarm, and then the last one that leaves at night re-arms it. If a teacher comes in outside of regular hours, they can disarm with their individual code. That way, we know who’s arming and disarming the system, ensuring the school stays secure and safe even when most of the staff aren’t here.”

The security system also allows Wiscasset Elementary to function safely as a community hub. “People are coming and going at all times,” Harris states. “The building gets used a lot and the gym is really important for sports activities.” The cameras and the alarms ensure that guests remain in designated areas and no one takes advantage of their access. Should an alarm be tripped, Cunningham immediately notifies local law enforcement.



Harris calls working with Cunningham Security “wonderful,” noting, “I’m able to reach technicians by email or phone if I have questions, and they do a really good job of answering. They take care of me right away.” She also finds the peace-of-mind Cunningham Security provides invaluable. “It helps Wiscasset Elementary School remain a special place,” she concludes. “This kind of robust security helps the staff remain focused on students and making sure that they are safe, happy, and having fun while learning.”

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