



UNITED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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The United Community: Working Together for a Strong Future

April 2, 2013

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The United School District is responding to and dealing with safety concerns using a three-pronged, pro-active approach. This approach includes actions to **deter**, **detect**, and **delay** unwelcomed intruders.

As a **deterrent**, the school district provides measures such as policies, procedures, technical devices, and controls to defend against attacks, intruders, and unauthorized individuals.

Detection includes the District's efforts to identify possible breakdowns or failures in the protective mechanisms that are currently in place. Because intruders study their attack area extensively, we, as a District, must address issues of entering/exiting the buildings, examining camera security, and providing human surveillance. Continual efforts by the staff, under the direction of the District's Safety Committee, provide perspectives on the strengths and weaknesses of our procedural systems.

One of the key components of providing a safe environment is to **delay** an intruder. If a breach in security occurs, the most important thing for us to do is to slow down the intruder, locking down the facility, and providing protection for students long enough for law enforcement to arrive. Safety experts advise avoiding evacuation outside of the lockdown area, as these areas are not proven safe from explosives or potential snipers.

A cooperative relationship is established between the school district and law enforcement. The United School District has an executed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with law enforcement. In addition to the MOU, emergency responders have a copy of the District's Comprehensive Disaster Response and Emergency Preparedness Plan. The United School District is also involved in the development of a County-wide Crisis Management Team.

For current examples of the safety practices in use within the District, please visit our website at <http://www.unitedsd.net>.

As good stewards within the United School District community, students, parents, and others are encouraged to **notify the school of any safety suggestion or concern**.

One of the **Shared Values** of the United School District is that **all students should have the opportunities to learn in a safe, secure, and caring environment**. In working together as a team of caring providers, we can offer USD students this expected environment.

Sincerely,

Dr. Barbara Parkins