



# Centinela Valley Union High School District

## Office of the Superintendent

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March 2018

Esteemed Students, Parents, Staff & Community Members,

Our hearts go out to the victims, families, and school community of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida as well as all victims of school shootings. These horrific acts of violence only strengthen our resolve to ensure they never take place in our schools.

School safety is Centinela Valley's top priority and the first tenet of #theCVway (Students First: Safe, Clean, Kind, Learn). Nothing will ever be more important than the safety and security of our students and staff. We know students learn the most and achieve the greatest success when they are in a safe environment. Schools continue to be one of the safest places in our community for students ... and with your help, we will keep it that way.

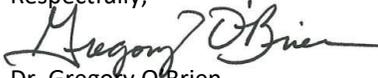
CVUHSD has a multi-faceted approach to keep our schools safe. First, all schools have developed safety plans that incorporate best practices for actions and procedures in an emergency or crisis situation, including the FBI's "Run, Hide, Fight" protocol. Second, students and staff receive ongoing training and regular opportunities to practice safety protocols, such as lockdown drills. Next, our school safety teams work closely with all local law enforcement agencies and first responders to ensure rapid response in an emergency. Finally, we ask all stakeholders to take seriously the charge: **If you see or hear something, say something.** You can talk to any staff member or alert us by downloading the district's App, "Anonymous Alerts," (username & password: Centinela) from the App Store or going to CVUHSD's website.

In the coming weeks, each of our schools will hold special Safety Assemblies, including activities on March 14, which will allow students to express their concerns and learn ways of keeping their campus safe. Additionally, student groups are working with site administrators to give our students access to school forums and small group activities where they can exchange ideas and express themselves. However, while we fully support the rights of individuals to take civic actions and have their voice heard, **we do not agree with any action that keeps students out of school.** For their own safety, **students must stay on campus.** Students who leave class or the school campus without permission will face school discipline. Furthermore, we want to remind students that disruptive acts such as blocking traffic or harming businesses are not only illegal, but they will shed a negative light on their cause.

Finally, we want to remind everyone that there is something you and I can do today and every day to keep our schools safe: **Be Kind to Others.** No laws need to be changed and no additional safety measures need to be implemented in order for each and every one of us to **smile at another human being** in the normal course of our day or **say a kind word** to those we meet or **show respect** to those who may think differently from us. Do you want to make our schools and community safer? Be the one to initiate an act of kindness. Do you want to change the world? Look around you and start by reaching out to the person in need right in front of you. Big things can happen when we are willing to show a little kindness.

Let's all work together to keep our schools and community safe.

Respectfully,

  
Dr. Gregory O'Brien  
Superintendent

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