

Superintendent's Report, March 8, 2018

Maintaining a Safe Environment: Administration and staff have a variety of ways that we work to ensure the safety of all students and staff at school. What follows are some of the ways we support this effort.

Administration at district and site levels have been and continue to work with local police and fire departments, including Santa Clara Police, Sunnyvale, and San Jose Police Departments and their associated fire departments on strategies and best practices maintain to student safety in emergency situations. The District has a point of contact with the PD's for any communication, and the Superintendent has a direct line to the Santa Clara Chief of Police for any emergency situation, who, in turn, has close contact with the chiefs of Sunnyvale and San Jose.

Schools practice and incorporate drills and best practices with the support and expertise of those police and fire departments. Our school safety plans account for best practices and are updated as new information suggests new and better ways to respond to emergency situations.

Our communication systems allow schools to communicate with families via phone text, and email. School Site Councils and PTAs have the ability to dialog with school administration on school safety issues, and Site Councils contribute to the creation of the school safety plans for their schools.

With the recent events in Florida, district administrators have been meeting with Santa Clara Police and Fire Chiefs to consider our practiced responses and potential changes going forward.

Included in this report are communications that have been sent to families and staff in the past few days, with links to information that can support safety and feeling safe, even in the face of stressful situations.

District administrators have been meeting with site administration to consider how best to respond to the upcoming day of remembrance and reflection on March 14 at 10 am. Activities are attempting to include students and staff as a means of helping students deal with their feelings and to support the safety of all concerned. The District is maintaining close communication with police, again to support safety.

Families are encouraged to communicate with school officials if they have concerns about the emotional well being of their children.

Our staff, whether classified, certificated, or administrative, remains committed in every way to the safety and well being of all our students. We stand together as one family in making sure our students feel safe at school.

In the weeks to come, we will be meeting with the group known as Sandy Hook Promise, who have created a curriculum designed to help students identify and report those they are concerned may be in need of support. They have learned that being proactive with students who are in need of help is the one positive way to prevent tragedies from occurring.

Our police chief has offered to attend school PTA meetings to discuss directly with parents how the police department works with schools to keep students safe and to answer questions parents may have.

We will continue to monitor events and keep the lines of communication open.