

Summerville Union High School District

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Superintendent Robert N. Griffith

Board of Education * Cheri Farrell * Spring Maddox * Randy Richter * Dennis Spisak * Bret Taylor

February 26, 2018

Dear Summerville Union High School District Community,

Memo: School Safety

The recent school shooting in Florida has increased the local, regional, and national discussion on school safety. The essential question is how do we keep our students safe from the potential of a deranged shooter coming onto our campus and taking innocent lives?

One of the most aggressive solutions is to create schools that have one entrance, one exit, metal detectors, and armed security. I am sure you are well aware of the national debates on restricting gun access to minors and the mentally challenged, increasing gun restrictions, and having armed presence on campuses.

In the middle of this discussion, I have several important points I want to communicate to our school community.

1. We take the entire subject of school safety very seriously. Since 2015, we have completely retooled our approach to emergencies, to threatened school shootings, and how students and staff respond to specific threats to safety. We practice and drill these scenarios regularly.
2. We revise and review our safety plans with local law enforcement, the SUHSD School Board, fire and emergency response experts, and examine emerging best practices in the response to threats regularly.
3. We review with all those on campus the importance of having a keen awareness of school safety:
 - a. "If you see something, say something."
 - b. We encourage and empower students to respond to threats appropriately through discussions and "Run, hide, fight" response drills.
 - c. We are committed to following up on every lead that is a source of potential threat to school safety.
 - d. We remain vigilant in supervising our students and campus for any signs of threats to safety.

Serving the communities of: Cold Springs, Long Barn, Mi-Wuk Village, Pinecrest, Sierra Village
Strawberry, Sugar Pine, Tuolumne, Twain Harte

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4. We participate monthly in Tuolumne County Education-Law meetings. These meetings include the Tuolumne County Sherriff, the Sonora Chief of police, the Tuolumne County District Attorney, and representatives from every school district.
 - a. Being a county school, we have forged a strong and trusting relationship with the Tuolumne County Sherriff's Department.
5. We are committed to transparent communication with our parents and community. Our school district is making efforts to communicate as quickly and accurately as possible regarding any threats to safety, social rumors, weather-related issues, and general school concerns with the Summerville Community.

The safety of the most vulnerable in our community, our children, is our highest concern. We will be discussing our safety measures and soliciting further public input through our parent groups. It is through open communication and partnership between the school and community that we can address the concerns.

Sincerely,

Robert N. Griffith, Superintendent