

October 22, 2013

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Dear Parents:

Pat Skorkowsky, Superintendent

Yesterday's tragedy in Sparks, Nevada, is an unfathomable loss that has touched our hearts, and our condolences go out to all of the students, teachers and families affected. As the Superintendent of the Clark County School District, I hear and understand the community's concerns about the safety of our children. I want to assure you that our highest priority is protecting our students and employees.

Our counselors and Crisis Response Team work every day to identify students who might be in a crisis situation, and we take every concern expressed by students and employees very seriously. It is incumbent on our community to work together to identify students who are going through difficult periods, whether it be from bullying, circumstances at home, or even a painful breakup. If you see a potential problem, please notify your school. We provide support and intervention to students who need it, and we also can refer students to outside organizations that are willing to offer additional support.

We also train our employees to be on high alert for any unusual occurrence in our schools. You can assist district staff by ensuring that, when visiting a school campus, you report to the office to sign in and retrieve a school badge or visitor's pass. Please understand that when a staff member asks to see your school badge, it is for the safety of our students.

I want to let you know that every one of our district schools has an effective site-based Crisis Plan in place - including drills for fire, lockdown, shelter-in-place, earthquakes, and evacuation procedures. Staff and students go through regular practice drills, and we routinely work with local police and fire departments to ensure we have a unified and organized response to any potential emergency. We are fortunate as a district to have an internal School Police department with more than 100 officers who patrol our campuses every day.

As an added precaution, this week I have asked our administrators to once again review their school's crisis plan with their staff so it is fresh in the mind of every employee.

If you have any additional concerns, please feel free to reach out to your child's school. We welcome your feedback and questions.

Sincerely,

Pat Skorkowsky
Superintendent of Schools