

Dear Ram families,

We returned to school this week with heavy hearts, as a result of the school shootings in Parkland, Florida and more recently the threats of violence in our PUSD community. As parents, when we entrust the education of our children to our schools, it goes without saying that we expect them to be kept safe. In light of recent events, I think it is important to share with you the security measures we have in place to ensure the safety of all Twin Peaks students and staff.

## **WHAT DO PARENTS AND GUARDIANS NEED TO KNOW?**

### **SAFETY PLAN:**

Twin Peaks has a comprehensive safety plan that is reviewed by our School Site Council and Board of Education each year. We follow all mandated drill protocols, including LOCKDOWN drills (which are considered intruder drills). Our second LOCKDOWN drill of the year is scheduled for next Wednesday, March 7th. You can review our comprehensive safety plan in the front office. While it includes our procedures and other important information, it does not include the specific tactical plans created in collaboration with the San Diego County Sheriff's Department, in order to further protect the safety of students, staff, parents, and volunteers who may be on campus during an emergency incident.

### **COMMUNICATION:**

In the event we experience a safety situation requiring parents to pick up their children, we will send alerts and contact parents via our Connect5 system, which allows us to call and mass email everyone with registered emails in our database. The message will include pertinent information to the situation at hand, including location and details for reuniting families. Please contact Christie Hamilton at [chamilton@powayusd.com](mailto:chamilton@powayusd.com) if you need to update your email or phone numbers.

### **REUNIFICATION:**

We have student profile information available to us in two forms; digitally and hard copy in binders in case our digital access is affected. This informs us of who is identified as emergency contacts in case we cannot get in contact with parents for pick-up procedures. Our procedure requires proper photo identification be presented to our student release team. For our drill purposes, that station is typically set up on the tennis and basketball courts, but in the event of a true emergency, it may even be off campus. Please inform any adults listed on your student's emergency card to be prepared to show their photo ID if they are picking up students from us. Also, please ensure we have current emergency contact information with working phone numbers on file in our office.

### **LAW ENFORCEMENT**

Poway schools are fortunate to have a strong partnership with the Poway Sheriff's Department and we have access to a School Resource Officer. Her name is Brittany Grove, and she can often be found in the quad during break or lunch, greeting students and having a positive presence on campus. This past Monday Officer Grove and a Juvenile Detective attended my administrative cabinet meeting to review our safety plan

and discuss potential changes. We are currently planning an additional LOCKDOWN drill in coordination with the Sheriff's Department. Our goal is to have several law enforcement personnel on campus to critique our performance and offer feedback on our potential vulnerabilities.

**WHAT DO KIDS NEED TO KNOW?** (These are the talking points we review with students and recommend you reinforce at home).

**TALKING POINTS:**

- We practice lockdown drills to be sure we know what to do in the case of an intruder or impending danger. Our primary goal is to keep all our students safe
- Students and staff are trained on how to respond to specific drills (Fire, Earthquake, Lock Down) especially when separated from their teacher or class
- Every adult on campus will work together to ensure all our students are kept safe, protected, and calm
- Families will be reunited at a designated location that will be communicated to parents in a timely manner
- Staff will remain with all students until they are reunited with parents, no matter how long it takes

**SCHOOL SAFETY FORUMS**

The District will be hosting a School Safety Community Forum at the Mt. Carmel Performing Arts Center on **Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>** from 5pm to 7pm, where attendees can submit questions to law enforcement and District staff. School safety procedures and plans will be discussed. If you are unable to attend that meeting or you prefer a smaller, more personal venue, we will be hosting a forum for Twin Peaks families only, right here on campus. Our goal is to provide you with a brief overview of our plans and then invite you to share your specific questions, concerns or ideas. This meeting will take place on **Thursday, March 8<sup>th</sup>** at 6pm in the Little Theater.

**MARCH 14TH WALK OUT**

You may be aware that a national walk out is planned for March 14th at 10:00 a.m. The walk out is intended to protest government inaction towards gun violence. The walk out is scheduled to last 17 minutes – one for every death due to the Parkland, Florida shootings. District administrators continue to work on a plan that will protect students' rights to free speech as well as our instructional program. The plans will be consistent across the district, but varied by level – elementary, middle and high school.

In closing, I want to thank all of you who have reached out to show support or express your concerns, and I encourage you to continue to keep the lines of communication open. We value your perspectives and wholeheartedly believe that our partnership will lead to enhanced safety for all. I will continue to update you as more information becomes available. Meanwhile, please feel free to email me at [kburke@powayusd.com](mailto:kburke@powayusd.com) with any topics you would like to discuss at our Twin Peaks Safety Forum.

Sincerely,

Dr. Burke