

Dear parents and guardians,

Our hearts go out to family and friends of those who lost loved ones in the tragic shooting that occurred Wednesday at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Broward County, Fla. Such tragedies shake us to the core and once again bring discussions to the forefront about students, schools and safety.

As you know, there is no easy answer or action that can be taken quickly to solve problems associated with unacceptable violence in our society. There is ample evidence this violence has spilled into places of learning, shopping, entertainment and within walls of homes.

Our schools today are places in which we practice lockout, lockdown and intruder drills; where police departments often conduct drills to prepare for the worst; where staff members wear ID badges and where a cadre of counselors are trained in grief counseling. Such practices speak volumes about the society in which we live.

That being said, our schools remain places of learning — where students are educated by top-notch professionals. Schools are also settings where we strive to establish relationships with parents and guardians so students can receive the best education possible.

In light of the recent tragedy, we want you to be aware of steps the district has taken to make our schools safer:

- All of our schools follow a standard response protocol, which is coordinated with all emergency response and law enforcement agencies in Davis County. Each month our elementary schools practice evacuation procedures through fire drills. They also practice lockout and lockdown drills at least once during the school year. At the secondary level, drills take place each quarter and include practicing lockout and lockdown procedures.
- The district continues to move forward with the installation of either reroute vestibules or secure vestibules at the main entrance of schools. A reroute vestibule takes school visitors into the office to check in. A secure vestibule contains a camera monitor and necessitates a school employee opening the entrance electronically to allow the school visitor access. Currently there are 15 schools where one of these two methods is in place. Nine more schools will have secure vestibules by the fall of 2018, and the district continues to look at ways to improve the security at all of its schools.

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- To further enhance safety, new schools are being designed to provide an easy exit to the outside.
- It is the goal of every school administrator and teacher to strive every day to positively affect the life of every student. Such interactions include school leaders and teachers being in the halls when classes are changing, interacting with students and providing an adult presence that is needed.
- Davis School District is fortunate to have school resource officers in all of its secondary schools. Not only do these officers mitigate criminal activity on school campuses, but they also work to build trusting relationships with students so the youth feel they can report suspicious activity.

While those security measures are in place, the most effective prevention tool is the thousands of eyes and ears we have in our schools. Students may be the first to see signs of a threat and should be encouraged to notify a trusted adult about those concerns. You can add your eyes and ears to those numbers as well.

We strongly encourage you to make your students aware of the SafeUT app. Through the app or the link located on every school website, students and parents can anonymously report bullying, violence, threats, harassments and other concerns. The app should be downloaded on every smartphone. It is also accessible through a link on every school website.

We also encourage you to familiarize yourselves with the district's emergency management procedures. Click here to access the guide: www.davis.k12.ut.us/emergency. The guide can also be downloaded to your phone for future reference.

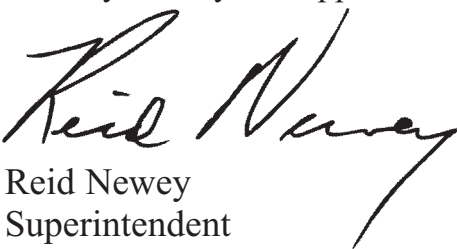
Lastly, we encourage you to talk with your students about these events. With that dialogue, encourage them to report any time they see unsafe behavior, even if they think it might just be a prank.

Below are some resources to help you in having that conversation:

- School Shootings and Other Traumatic Events: How To Talk To Students (National Education Association): www.nea.org/home/72279.htm
- Talking to Children About Tragedies and Other News Events (American Academy of Pediatrics) www.healthychildren.org/English/family-life/Media/Pages/Talking-To-Children-About-Tragedies-and-Other-News-Events.aspx
- How to Help Kids Feel Safe After Tragedy (PBS Parents) www.nctsn.org/trauma-types/terrorism

We also provide many workshops on a variety of topics, including bullying, suicide prevention, sexting and internet safety. We'll let you know when the next one is scheduled.

Thank you for your support.



Reid Newey
Superintendent
Davis School District