

September 28, 2023

Dear Lawndale Families,

Today we received reports of a possible weapon at Jane Addams Middle School minutes before dismissal. The reports came from students who followed our “See Something Say Something” policy and immediately informed a staff member of a possible weapon on campus. As a result, a lockdown was called and law enforcement was immediately notified. Staff quickly moved students into a safe location per our lockdown protocol.

Law enforcement quickly arrived at Jane Addams and began conducting an investigation, which ultimately included a class-by-class search with a trained K-9 police dog. This process of clearing each room individually took time, which is why students waited to be released until their classroom could be cleared. The result of law enforcement’s investigation was that a student had brought a BB gun to campus. Calling the lockdown helped ensure our students stayed safe, which is our top priority.

There is a lot of misinformation that is circulating on social media. Please report inappropriate footage and language on social media platforms and talk to your children about improper online behavior. [Common Sense Media](#) is a great source and offers a guide with tips. We would like to remind our community and will continue to remind our students that bringing any weapon on a school campus, even an imitation weapon, is a violation of the law and our district policy.

School will resume tomorrow and we will have counselors and social workers on campus to support the students and staff as needed.

We would like to thank law enforcement for thoroughly responding to the situation and our families for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Virginia Castro, Superintendent

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