

Parents & Police Help Keep Students Safe

Safety is a community wide issue that requires the participation and cooperation of everyone. Parental involvement is one way to not only improve school safety, but also contribute to the academic success of students. Parents are their children's first teachers and children will learn a lot from them before they enter the classroom. Parents are encouraged to take an active role with their children and talk to them about what is happening at school. Children should be encouraged to become involved in school activities. This helps to not only promote community involvement, but also provides them with a structured outlet.

It is recommended families review safety procedures and emphasize the importance of personal responsibility. Children need established behavioral expectations and made aware of the consequences of behaving inappropriately. Established consequences requirement enforcement in a prompt and fair manner and encourage positive alternatives. Finally, parents have a responsibility to lock up any guns inside the home and keep them out of the reach of children.

If children are experiencing problems at school, parents should never hesitate to contact teachers or school administration. By working with schools early to address behavioral problems, parents can ensure that students receive the support they need to succeed both in and out of the classroom. Watch for any unusual behavior by children and seek assistance from the school or other resources.

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Instruct children on how to identify police.

Keeping weapons out of the hands of children and ensuring students have a safe place to learn is of paramount importance to the Clark County School District. Students are asked to report any unusual behavior, acts of violence, threats or other suspicious activity to their school, school police or other law enforcement agencies. All threats are taken seriously and thoroughly investigated. Remind your child to pay attention to details, such as physical descriptions or car license plates, so that the information can be reported in case of an emergency.

The district is working with all local law enforcement agencies to increase police presence in the communities around Clark County schools. These agencies will collaborate to assess any potential threats and respond accordingly. Children should be instructed on how to identify Las Vegas Metropolitan Police, Clark County School District Police and other law enforcement officers by their uniforms and vehicles. CCSD's Police Department is a recognized police agency with more than 100 officers dedicated to providing a safe and secure environment conducive to learning. Two officers are assigned to every high school and one officer is placed at most middle schools in the district.

In addition to school police, a Crisis Management Team is also available to determine threat assessment and provide counseling and other services in the event of a critical incident. The Crisis Management team works closely with community emergency responders and government agencies across the valley to prepare for and prevent against critical events. Threat assessment services are also available through a trained staff that includes school psychologists and counselors. Their primary responsibility is to work with school police and assist schools in identifying those students who have made threats to themselves or others. Training and awareness activities continue in all areas of crisis management and school safety. All CCSD schools have crisis plans on site to provide support for students and staff in the event of a crisis and ultimately, to keep them out of harm's way.

The safety of Clark County students and staff continues to be a priority for the school district. Through on-going communication with local law enforcement and with the help of dedicated community members, CCSD can continue its mission of giving students the knowledge, skills, attitudes and ethics necessary to succeed academically and practice responsible citizenship, at a justifiable cost. Residents are encouraged to organize volunteer efforts at local schools, attend monthly PAC meetings hosted by trustees and attend board meetings to share their opinions and suggestions on student safety. Additionally, district personnel and community volunteers have formed the Look out, Kids About Safety Coalition to ensure student safety while traveling to and from school. For more information about this new community partnership, visit www.lookoutkidsabout.com.