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## **CLARK COUNTY**

## SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Jesus F. Jara Ed.D., Superintendent

November 1, 2018

## To our community:

As a father who has sent my children through public school, I know that nothing is more important than the safety of our students and staff at the Clark County School District.

To date, CCSD has confiscated 11 firearms from students compared to 6 this time last year. There was also a tragic incident at Canyon Springs High School when a neighborhood issue surfaced on our campus.

I want to communicate to our students and families that no weapons will be tolerated on our campuses.

On October 19, 2018, I announced a new program that involves random searches of students at middle schools and high schools to locate and deter students from bringing weapons on campus.

I promised this community several weeks ago that I would take action and this is one step to ensure our students will be safer tomorrow than they are today.

The attached document outlines the procedures of the "Weapons Search Program" that will begin soon. You can also find a document answering Frequently Asked Questions at ccsd.net/safety. Please be advised that when a school is randomly selected, your child may or may not be subject to a search for weapons.

Our goal as educators is always to discover concerns before they become problems by developing strong relationships. I encourage students to report any rumors of weapons, potential fights, and other safety concerns to School Police or to the SafeVoice app. We will respond immediately and they have the option to remain anonymous.

This random search program is just one strategy we are employing to improve school safety.

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I have been listening to principals, teachers, parents, law enforcement, religious, and other community leaders who are part of a new superintendent's safety working group. I will present safety recommendations to the Board of School Trustees by the first week of December.

We also appreciate the work of the Governor's Safety Task Force, which is reviewing a variety of methods to improve school safety, from providing additional adults on campuses, to funding facility upgrades such as limiting the points of entry to schools. We will support that effort in the 2019 Legislature.

All students and staff deserve to learn and work in a safe environment. Thank you for entrusting your children to the Clark County School District.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jesus F. Jara

Superintendent of Schools

jj/ec

Attachment