

Hello Windsor Middle School Families:

This is Brian Williams, principal here at Windsor Middle School. I want to acknowledge the horrific events of Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, with the senseless school shooting at Florida's Douglass High School, claiming so many young lives. As a district, we here at Windsor Unified are prepared to respond to questions we are receiving pertaining to how our schools and district are reflecting upon and responding to school safety. Please be reassured that we hold student safety as a top priority, and will continue to do so through the implementation of the following practices here at WMS:

1. Security Audits: these have been completed on site by a security specialist to identify areas of strength, and areas needing improvement. Our campus at WMS is secured behind fencing and locked gates, and discussion continues around the implementation of security cameras, front-office security measures (in addition to our current mandatory practice of visitor sign-in procedures), and adjustments to fencing to further secure our campus.

2. We are fortunate to have a full-time School Resource Officer here in the Windsor Unified School District, who will soon be providing our site staff with the active shooter/assailant training that has already been completed at other Windsor Unified sites. Our training date will take place on Wednesday, March 7<sup>th</sup>.
3. The Windsor Middle School Comprehensive School Safety Plan which is updated annually is currently being updated to reflect all drill protocols, including current best practices in lockdown procedures, as recommended by our local law enforcement and school insurance group.
4. Here at WMS, office staff, administration, and select teachers situated the campus perimeters are equipped with radios for improved schoolwide communication in the event of a situation or emergency.
5. In accordance with California Education Code, various safety drills are carried out throughout the year, in collaboration with local law enforcement and local fire department. Recognizing that an active assailant may be triggered by any number of mental health issues, our

priority here at WMS is to also continually attend to the whole child, with special attention paid to our students' social/emotional needs.

Here at Windsor Middle, we:

1. Hold weekly "Coordinated Service Team" meetings, to discuss students needing extra support. The CST also discusses and evaluates social/emotional programs and practices implemented here at WMS, and collaborates on actions to best support identified students in need. The C.S.T. is comprised of myself, the assistant principal, our social/emotional counselor, school counselor, school psychologist, and our intervention specialist.
2. Programs in place at WMS to address the social/emotional well being of our students include Safe School Ambassadors, Restorative Conferencing and circles, and Responsive Classroom.
3. Staff at WMS will soon receive updated training on suicide prevention, trauma informed care, and recognizing signs of depression in our students. Our staff and Safe School

Ambassadors continue to reach out to those students who seem alone and disconnected to school and peers.

4. WMS staffs one full-time social/emotional counselor who is a Marriage and Family therapist, 1 school counselor, and one full-time school psychologist. Additionally, the Assistant Principal, intervention specialist and student advisors are fully trained in the use of restorative practices. Students may self-refer to a staff counselor, or may be identified by staff for counseling services.
5. Our Counseling staff is trained to conduct both risk and threat assessments for students in critical need of support. Our protocol for identifying students needing higher levels of support is through interview, investigation, and risk and/or threat assessment. Our school resource officer is also available to assist in assessing the level of risk or threat with students of concern. Here at WMS, we have responded to such assessment by providing or recommending

counseling services. In severe cases where a threat to school safety is indicated, we have moved to expel.

On a final note, you may have heard of the proposal made by the "Women's March Youth Empower" organization, for schools to participate in a 17 minute walk-out to protest gun violence. This national movement is proposed for March 14<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 am. At Windsor Middle School, classes will remain in session, and students will be permitted outside during break time (10:13 to 10:23 am). Our goal is to have students back in the classroom by the end of break time, so that students do not miss instruction or follow-up debriefing.

I would like to thank Dr. Brandon Krueger and members of the District Office leadership team for supporting the sites as we continue to make safety of students our top priority. If you have any further questions, concerns, or ideas, please as always, feel free to reach out to me. Thank You.