



MORONGO

UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

5715 Utah Trail (P.O. Box 1209), Twentynine Palms, CA 92277
Phone: (760) 367-9191 Fax: (760) 367-7189

Board of Education

Cathy Nelson, President
Kerri Condley
Roberta Meyers
Robert Hamilton
L. Hilary Slotta

District Superintendent

Dr. Patricio I. Vargas

November 1, 2022

Dear Parent and Guardians,

As a district, the safety of our students and staff is our primary focus during these unprecedented and challenging times. We want both students and employees to feel physically and psychologically safe and cared for in our schools, and our commitment is to assure you that we will do everything reasonably possible to protect your children against any threat that may arise while they are in our care. In order to do this, we hired a Director of Risk Management and Transportation whose main job and priority is to ensure the safety of all students while traveling to and from school and on campus.

We have a District Safety Committee with representatives from each school level (elementary, middle, and high), key district staff members, and representatives from local emergency management, law enforcement, and other community stakeholders. The committee has developed goals, set priorities, reviewed safety plans, and coordinated our resources to be prepared to respond to any emergency.

Our safety/security plan focuses on three areas: Effective planning, physical security, and coordination with local first responders for potential emergency situations. This includes training our staff and students, conducting drills to practice our plans, and strengthening our security technology and infrastructure.

Please keep in mind our first responsibility is to make sure our students and staff are safe. In both shelter-in-place or lockdown situations, parents will be updated as soon as possible by an auto call, email, and text message. It's important for you to listen to the entire voice message before calling the school. Email allows us to communicate more specific information. We encourage students, staff, and parents to be vigilant and report information if they see or hear something by using our **WeTip** line at **844-760-1998**. Safety is our number one priority

We also wanted to inform you that every school has an Emergency Response Plan. These plans are reviewed and approved annually with information pertaining to crisis management, procedures and protocols for different scenarios, and resources for external assistance before, during and after an event. Fire drills are conducted monthly and lockdown drills are conducted semi-annually. Local law enforcement and fire personnel have also reviewed each of our school site safety plans and provided recommendations.

As we informed you previously, entry into our schools is restricted using access control on all main doors to campus. Parents and other visitors coming into schools must check in at the main office using the Raptor Visitor Management System and receive temporary identification badges before proceeding. All adults who work with our students during and after school require background checks, and emergency communications continue to be upgraded.



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In an effort to improve our school climate, we have also implemented the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program in all of our schools, ensuring that our students and staff feel engaged and connected. Additionally, to ensure timely, clear and accurate information to our parents and families in an emergency, MUSD will use School Messenger, local radio stations, and local newspapers, as well as our website morongousd.com. It is critically important that family emergency contact information is up to date each year. Parents can update contact information through the Parent Portal. For help, contact your school.

In Summary:

- MUSD is supporting all sites to improve their safety procedures and protocols
- Schools work closely with local law enforcement
- Two full-time School Resource Officers have been assigned by the District and are present throughout the day and at school events
- Schools conduct emergency fire drills, shelter-in-place drills, lockdown drills, evacuation drills, and training in first aid and CPR procedures
- Security monitoring devices and safety practices are continuously evaluated, tested, and updated in conjunction with the Superintendent's vision on safety.

Morongo Unified School District also has two designated School Resource Officers (SRO) on duty, and our comprehensive secondary schools also have campus supervisors and safety coordinators. We certainly understand you are looking for specific details in our communications; however, by law, we cannot release student information or disciplinary action.

What can you do to help keep our students safe? Start by talking to your child about safety issues and empower them to talk about their concerns and express their feelings. We want you to be an advocate for MUSD. Please be aware that many of the incidents resulting in the locking down of campuses lately have involved unsubstantiated and unfounded threats against schools posted on social media and through other means that resulted in disruption to the campuses and the learning environment. Thus, we ask you to get involved, support your school site on social media, and help us build a positive school climate.

Thank you for your continued support and for entrusting the safety of your children to us.

Respectfully,

Dr. Patricio I. Vargas
Superintendent