

# Ontario-Montclair

## School District

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SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

James Q. Hammond, Ed.D.

*Superintendent*

April 11, 2017

Dear Valued OMSD Community,

The school tragedy that occurred in San Bernardino on April 10, 2017 has profoundly impacted the community surrounding North Park Elementary School and communities across the nation. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families that lost loved ones and those who are injured. Incidents such as this serve as another reminder to heighten our awareness of school safety at the Ontario-Montclair School District.

Since the incident, I have received calls and messages conveying concerns from parents and families regarding the safety of our children at school. First, I want to reassure you that keeping our students and staff safe is a high priority on our campuses and buildings.

Over the past five years, we have diligently worked at implementing effective policies and procedures and training staff in this area. Below is a brief listing of activities and initiatives that have been developed and are currently in place.

- We continuously encourage school personnel to maintain a "heightened awareness" for suspicious activity, suspicious vehicles, and suspicious persons. This includes affirming well established procedures and protocols for checking in and checking out of all OMSD sites.
- A thorough screening process is conducted for all potential employees, including a Department of Justice fingerprint check.
- The District conducts emergency drills and trainings in conjunction with first responders, including lockdown drills, to prepare for worst-case scenarios. In addition, the District continually assesses response protocols to improve our emergency preparedness.
- We maintain very close relationships with first responders – local police and fire departments – to make immediate and long-term threat assessments.
- We provide special attention to perimeter security and access control issues, including reducing the number of doors accessible from the outside, stressing the importance of staff approaching and questioning strangers, reporting suspicious individuals/situations, reviewing security procedures for after-school and evening activities and building use, and identifying visiting service personnel and vendors.

**“Our Community, Our Children, Our Commitment, Our Future”**

- The District reviews and updates its school safety plans on an annual basis and as needed during the year.
- Regularly, our Safety Committee and District Risk Management team meet with Principals, other District staff, and law enforcement representatives to review best practices as they relate to school safety issues.
- We review staffing and supervision plans that stress the importance of adult supervision before, during, and after school, inside school buildings, on campus, and in common areas.
- We review and test emergency communications mechanisms and procedures on a regular basis.
- We are enhancing our campus facility security by utilizing Measure K funds. Examples include installing higher public-adjacent fencing and improving school/public entrances.

In closing, we are working to better understand the North Park Elementary School tragedy and other patterns and trends to determine what lessons we can learn from these tragic incidents. In the meantime, we appreciate your continued support, understanding, and assistance in maintaining the safest learning environments for our children.

Respectfully,



James Q. Hammond, Ed.D.  
Superintendent