

Sherman County School District



Communication to the Community

Issue #23

From Sherman County
School District
Moro, Oregon

WORKING TOGETHER TO PUT STUDENT SUCCESS FIRST

March 13, 2018

Sherman County Students, Families, Staff, and Community Members,

The safety and well-being of our students and staff is our District's top priority. Listed below are several safety measures currently in place that are designed to safeguard everyone and to influence positive student learning in the classroom. As always, I welcome your comments and would be delighted to discuss any ideas or concerns you may have regarding the matter of school safety or emergency preparedness.

Though our nation has seen disheartening and alarming violence in our schools recently, I feel confident that Sherman County School is one of the safest places for our students. Below are some examples:

- We are extremely fortunate to have a new, thoughtfully designed, and safety conscious facility which includes door entry card readers.
- All doors are locked other than two remotely controlled and monitored safety vestibule entrances. This allows for timely response in the event of an emergency in which doors may need to be accessed or locked.
- All visitors are asked to register with the front office before gaining access to the building.
- All visitors are required to wear a visitor badge or lanyard.
- We have direct access to 911 dispatch through emergency radio systems.
- We have more than 40 cameras in our school that monitor activity inside and out.
- The District is fortunate to have a collaborative partnership with the Sherman County Sheriff's Office and Emergency Services.
- Monthly fire drills and periodic emergency preparedness trainings/bus evacuations are conducted.
- A Safety Committee consisting of numerous organizations (Sheriff's Office, Emergency Services, Oregon Department of Transportation, Mid-Columbia Transportation Company, Sherman County Road Department, City of Moro, Sherman Preschool, Local Fire Departments and the School District) meets monthly to discuss safety measures. This dedicated group, along with the Board, is currently discussing well thought out interim and long-term plans to defend against potential security threats.
- An evacuation and reunification plan has been created by the Safety Committee in order to be prepared for a variety of emergency events.
- The District has a School Messenger system to quickly inform parents and other stakeholders of important communications.
- Implementation of Safe Oregon which is explained below.

The Sherman County School District recognizes that creating a safe learning environment is a critical part of helping each child achieve academic success. Last year, our District signed up with the Safe Oregon Tip Line. I would like to again share information regarding this additional resource for students, parents, and our communities to report safety threats or potential acts of violence to school administration.

How does the Safe Oregon Tip Line Work? Students can access the Safe Oregon system through a link on our District's website or they may go directly to the www.safeoregon.com website. Tips can be submitted through the web form on the Safe Oregon website, or by text, email, live call, or mobile app. Around the country, research shows that the number one reason why students do not report is the fear of retaliation from their peers. Again, the Safe Oregon Tip Line can be accessed from the privacy of a phone, home computer, or other internet equipped device, eliminating the possibility of being identified by another student and thus, decreasing the likelihood that a school safety threat would go unreported. I encourage you to learn more about the Safe Oregon Tip Line by visiting the Safe Oregon website at www.safeoregon.com.

Another outstanding resource is The National Association of School Psychologists. The NASP has information on their website for parents related to school safety, violence prevention, children's trauma reactions, and crisis response at www.nasponline.org.

The Sherman County School District Staff, School Board, Safety Committee, and Community Partners have worked hard to implement processes, create infrastructure, and put plans in place to help safeguard our students.

Thank you for your trust!

Sincerely,

Wes Owens
Superintendent



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