



# DESERT OASIS HIGH SCHOOL

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The Central Union High School District has taken a very proactive approach to securing our campuses. The District has followed through with many precautionary steps to making sure our staff and students are safe at school. In 2015, the District acquired the services of Close Range International, Inc. to investigate and provide a Security Threat Assessment Report of all of our campuses. Top priorities were adding additional security cameras at certain locations, adding more handheld radios and addressing lost frequency zones, improving security access at the District Office, developing and implementing an active shooter plan, and adding a security guard at Desert Oasis High School. All of these important security improvements have been implemented. With the addition of the security guard at Desert Oasis, we now have a total of 4 full time and 6 part-time security guards in the District and one School Resource Officer at each Comprehensive High School.

The District also established a District Safety Committee and each school has a School Site Safety Team. Through these staff teams, the District held its first Safety Summit on March 3, 2017 at the Jimmie Cannon Theatre at Southwest High School whereby the entire staff of the Central Union High School District attended. The Safety Summit included a presentation from the El Centro Police Department (ECPD) on its response procedures for an active shooter on campus incident. Also, our School Resource Officers provided staff training on our Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate (ALICE) procedures that deals with the issue of having an active shooter on school campus. The ECPD provided a simulated intruder training at Southwest High and our staff had hands-on experience in implementing ALICE. The ALICE training is on-going for staff and students at all of our school sites. The District developed an ALICE training video which helps with continuous training and practice on this very important issue.

In addition, the District contracted with Catapult Emergency Management System (Catapult EMS) to provide an emergency communication service that is accessible through handheld devices, computers, and tablets. With this service, all District administration, school site safety teams, staff, and School Resource Officers are able to quickly communicate in real time any possible threat and the level of emergency at any of our school sites.

We have shared information with our teachers and staff on how to be alert to signs of trouble and to be vigilant of potential warning signs anyone may express that may lead to violence. All staff are to report any of these signs to District or school administration. Our staff have had multiple discussions and trainings on this subject at their respective school sites.

In light of the recent acts of violence that have occurred in high schools across the nation, there have been several calls for students to participate in walk outs to ensure their voices heard. The Central Union High School District (CUHSD) supports the rights of students to express themselves on campus through organized activities. In fact, a few teachers have volunteered to teach students how to be activists for change in a positive manner, following in the footsteps of the students of MSDHS in Parkland, Florida. This ensures that the orderly operation of the school is not disrupted and the safety of our students is not threatened. However, leaving school campus during school hours to participate in a walk out and attend an off- site demonstration puts the students outside the safety zone of the school and jeopardizes the safety of our students and staff members. Therefore, the CUHSD does not support or endorse any calls for walk outs that involve going off campus during school hours and we strongly discourage students from participating in unauthorized protests. To ensure that our students' voices are heard while maintaining order on school grounds, we have planned the following activities:

1. Each advisory period will be working on creating a poster of a school that has been involved with a school shooting or possession of gun on campus. The posters will be placed around the inside of the school.
2. On Wednesday, March 14 at 10:00 am all classes will come out to the quad area where seventeen chimes will be set in remembrance of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School victims.
3. After the seventeen chimes, one representative of each advisory period will read the name of the school they were assigned to Investigate, date of incident, and brief description of incident.

Sincerely,

Fernando O'Campo

Principal