



CABRILLO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
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April 10, 2018

Dear Parents,

I am sure that you have heard by now that there was an email threat made against the students and staff of Cabrillo Unified School District. The threat turned out to be a hoax perpetrated by groups in Europe and sent to many school districts in the United States.

We are relieved that yesterday's Secure Campus was a false alarm, and that students were never in any danger. However, I want to acknowledge that a perceived threat brings up all the same fear and emotions for students, staff and parents as actual danger until you know you are safe. I want to commend our excellent staff for their calm leadership yesterday, and our students for their courage in following instructions from their teachers and school leaders.

I would also like to share with you how Cabrillo responds to one of these threats. When a threat is first received, my office is immediately notified. In this particular case, I was the person who first received the threatening email. I immediately contacted the San Mateo County Sheriff's Department and the San Mateo County Office of Education to notify them of the email. After talking with the Sheriff's office, I decided to sequentially place our schools into what we call "Secure Campus" starting with the high schools and working down to the elementary schools as it was believed the greatest risk was at the high schools and the intermediate school. This means all students were kept inside, and doors locked until we could fully ascertain the validity and extent of the threat to our students and staff. Meanwhile, the Sheriff's Department began investigating the validity of the threat, and shortly thereafter they contacted me to let me the email we had received was a hoax and that we could release our schools from "Secure Campus." This entire sequence of events all happened before we even completed our calls to all of the district's schools. Once we released the Secure Campus, we sent a text to parents to let them know their children were safe and the threat was not real. We subsequently also heard from the County Superintendent's Office that the email was a hoax that had also affected other districts in the county, too.

These are difficult and trying times, and we are not alone in the challenge of dealing with false alarms related to student safety. We thank you for entrusting your children to us, and I want to assure you that the district makes the safety of our students and staff our top priority at all times. Please know in these difficult times that it is important to be sensitive to the thoughts and feelings our children and staff may be experiencing. Different age groups require different approaches. Previously we have shared with each school principal information from the San Mateo County Office of Education providing tips and guidance about how to talk about these types of tragedies. I include below links to resources which I hope will be helpful as you work through supporting your students' response to this situation.

<http://www.smcoe.org/parents-and-students/school-safety/>

<http://www.smcoe.org/assets/files/talkingviolence.pdf>

<https://www.safeandsoundschools.org/resources/resource-library/>

<https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources/school-safety-and-crisis/addressing-grief>

[http://www.smchealth.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/familyemergencyenglish\\_v1.pdf](http://www.smchealth.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/familyemergencyenglish_v1.pdf)

Jane Yuster  
Superintendent

Half Moon Bay High School • Cunha Intermediate School  
Alvin S. Hatch Elementary • El Granada Elementary • Farallone View Elementary • Kings Mountain Elementary  
Pilarcitos High School • Cabrillo Adult School