



October 2, 2015

Dear Wink-Loving ISD Families:

Umpqua Community College in Roseburg, Oregon has been in our thoughts since the news of the school shooting this past week. Our thoughts and prayers continue to go out to the victims and their loved ones. We understand some of our parents may have questions about safety procedures at their child's school, and the proactive measures the district is taking to ensure a safe setting for students and staff. This recent tragedy is a reminder of the importance of school safety, and how we must continue to review our procedures.

Our District administrative team will be meeting with local law enforcement officials this week in order to review and discuss security measures relative to the Wink-Loving ISD Emergency Operation Plan (EOP). We all agreed nearly three years ago, following the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in Newtown, Connecticut, that it was critically important that we increase the frequency with which we conduct practice drills in WLISD. Subsequently, since that time we have made it a priority to conduct regularly scheduled lock-down drills on both the elementary and HS/JH campuses. Additionally, we have added a number of district-wide security measures such as security doors on both campuses, implementation of the Raptor security system and the installation of more than twenty (20) security cameras.

Our local law enforcement agents will be on-site to observe our lock-down drill in order to provide our District with valuable feedback regarding security measures. They will simply be there to observe our drill and provide supportive feedback.

After school is over and students have been dismissed, our local law enforcement agencies will conduct an "active shooter" tactical drill at the high school campus. This tactical drill will occur later in the evening after the high school campus is empty. This will provide our local law enforcement teams an opportunity to better familiarize themselves with our facilities. Because this is the first drill following the Umpqua Community College School Shooting, we believe that it is important to make you aware of the EOP drill schedule so that you would not be alarmed if you observe an unusual number of law enforcement vehicles on school property on Thursday, October 8th, 2015.

We are committed to doing all we can to keep our students and staff as safe as possible while in our schools. The National Association of School Psychologists offers suggestions on what parents can do during such times of crisis. Please find below this list of suggestions entitled, *Talking to Children About Violence: Tips for Parents and Teachers*,

http://www.nasponline.org/resources/crisis_safety/talkingviolence.pdf

1. Reassure children that they are safe.

2. Make time to talk.
3. Keep your explanations developmentally appropriate.
4. Review safety procedures.
5. Observe children's emotional state.
6. Limit television viewing of such events.
7. Maintain a normal routine.

Another resource for parents is entitled, *Tips for Adults on How to Talk with Children About Connecticut School Shooting*,

[http://rems.ed.gov/docs/Tips for Adults on How to Talk with Children About Connecticut School Shooting.pdf](http://rems.ed.gov/docs/Tips_for_Adults_on_How_to_Talk_with_Children_About_Connecticut_School_Shooting.pdf)

The safety of our children is a high priority at Wink-Loving ISD. As a father, I want for your children what I want for my family – a safe and engaging learning environment. Thank you for sharing your children with us and for the wonderful support you continually provide.

Sincerely,

Dewitt Smith

Dewitt Smith, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Wink-Loving Independent School District
Committed to Excellence!