



SAN MARCOS HIGH SCHOOL KNIGHTS

Empowering personal growth and honorable contributions of all Knights

Dear Knight Families,

Safe Start 2020 - 2021

August 2020

As we begin the new school year, physical and emotional safety is on everyone's mind. We have all been affected one way or the other by acts of hate, racism, school violence or threats within schools across our county. The safety of students and staff is San Marcos High's highest priorities. **All of us—students, parents, and school employees—have an important role to play in keeping our campus safe.**

School safety begins at home with establishing a foundation of communication with your children. Talk to your child about the proper outlets for stress, anger, and other emotions, monitor their social media, and engage in dialogue about the consequences of their words and actions. Below are a few things to know and share with your child to help keep SMHS as safe as possible:

- **SMHS and the San Diego County law enforcement community take every threat or act of hate seriously.**
- If your student comes to you with something alarming they heard or saw on social media, help them report it to the appropriate source. Report *any* suspicious behavior as early intervention can prevent a situation from escalating.
- If you see or hear a threat, call 911 if there is any possibility of immediate risk to someone.
- Contact any of our school support personnel (i.e. supervisors, resource officer, administrators, counselors, social worker, etc.) or *San Diego Crime Stoppers Tip Line* (888 - 580- 8477) to report a school threat where life-threatening danger does not appear to be imminent.
- SD county law enforcement community follows up on every tip and suspicious activity report they receive.
- The consequences of making threats or engaging in acts of hate, can include suspension or expulsion from school and criminal prosecution.

If and when we return to an open campus, all visitors/parents/guardians **must** show proper ID when coming onto campus. We **do not** accept drop-off deliveries in the front office during school hours. Student pick-up and drop-off on red curbs is also prohibited.

If you or your child have questions, please contact SMHS School Resource Officer, Deputy Paul Brown at paul.brown@smusd.org or (760) 290 - 2274. Early intervention can prevent a future tragedy. Reporting any threat allows law enforcement time to identify, assess, and manage the threat. Together, let's make sure our students are safe, supported, and ready to learn, grow, and thrive.

Sincerely,

Adam Dawson

Principal