

## We are all champions for children!

*What is Oregon Trail School District doing to provide a safe, secure environment for students and staff?*

### **Creating a culture of safety**

The Oregon Trail School District developed an all-hazards Emergency Operations Plan in collaboration with local police and fire agencies. The plan was adopted by the school board in 2011, and Emergency Operations Teams were created at every school.

Emergency response training is ongoing across the district. Administrators are trained in FEMA's Incident Command System, and our Emergency Operations Teams participate in a variety of trainings and exercises. All staff is trained to implement Run, Hide, Fight protocols in active shooter or other dangerous intruder situations.

The Sandy Police Department performed vulnerability assessments, through a public safety lens, at all Oregon Trail School District buildings and campuses - resulting in security upgrades that include: a single point of entry at each school, perimeter fencing, video intercoms for visitor entry to schools, and automated lockdown/alert systems.

### **Taking the lead in school safety & security**

Oregon Trail School District's comprehensive efforts have put us ahead of the recent recommendations developed by Oregon's Task Force on School Safety. On a local level – we have addressed all of the task force's recommendations, and more.

Oregon's Task Force on School Safety began meeting in August 2014 to develop recommendations to strengthen school safety. Their findings were reported to the Oregon State Legislature in fall 2015, with the following recommendations:

- Establish and fund a statewide tip line, allowing students, families and others to report information about potential threats.

*Oregon Trail School District students, families, and staff may use the district's **Report It!** anonymous incident reporting system to report tips on bullying, harassment, drugs, vandalism or any other safety issue.*

- Establish and fund a statewide threat assessment system to identify, evaluate and support students who present a potential risk for violence and self-harm.

*Oregon Trail School District counselors and administrators use a comprehensive Threat Assessment tool, and processes are in place for responding to threats of violence.*

- Fund and develop a statewide school floorplan database to store facility information for Oregon Schools to enhance the readiness of first responders.

*Local first responders have access to all Oregon Trail School District school floor plans.*

- Establish standardized terminology for emergency response and drills for all Oregon schools.

*Oregon Trail School District staff is trained in the National Incident Management System (NIMS) that provides a common approach and terminology across agencies for managing incidents. District Emergency Operations Team members were trained at FEMA's Emergency Management Institute.*

## **Securing our buildings**

All visitors must enter through their school's main entrance vestibule and be cleared by staff before entering the school. School building exterior doors remain locked throughout the day, and fencing creates a safe perimeter for outdoor areas. High school doors to outside walkways are electronically controlled, and visitors access the school during the school day through a single point of entry.

## **Addressing safety threats**

*If it is determined that a potentially dangerous situation is outside/near a school, the school will remain locked, the building will be monitored, and students will not be allowed to exit the building until the situation is resolved. Activities will continue as normal within classrooms while the situation is being monitored. If it is determined that a potentially dangerous situation is inside the building, staff will initiate a trained Run, Hide, Fight response for safeguarding students.*

Depending on the crisis situation, students may be:

- secured within their classroom or another location within the school building,
- secured at an outside location on school grounds,
- relocated to an off-site location within walking distance of the school, or
- bused to an off-site location.

## **Training staff and students to Run, Hide, Fight**

The Sandy Police Department has trained and prepared school staff to respond to a security threat using Run, Hide, Fight protocols, including techniques for defending against an armed intruder. And all students K-12 are instructed by their teachers, in an age-appropriate manner, to follow Run, Hide, Fight protocols.

In the event of a threat, any school staff member has the ability to call a lockdown. Once the lockdown goes into effect, Sandy police are notified immediately by text message — getting the information even before dispatchers.

## **Encouraging students to Say Something**

OTSD students in grades 6-12 participate annually in the *Say Something* initiative. Say Something teaches students, grades 6-12, how to look for warning signs, signals and threats, especially in social media, from individuals who may want to hurt themselves or others and to Say Something to a trusted adult to get them help.

**For more information** about the district's Emergency Operations Plan, contact Julia Monteith at 503-668-0679, [julia.monteith@ortrail.k12.or.us](mailto:julia.monteith@ortrail.k12.or.us).