

Title: MCUSD 709 Security Update

Morton School Community,

The recent events at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, are troubling and tragic. The situation they are facing weighs heavily on our hearts. The students, staff, and families are all in our thoughts and prayers and will continue to be in the coming weeks.

To assist us in keeping our schools safe, we encourage timely reporting of information that could be considered harmful to our learning environment. If at all possible, please include names, identifying facts, screen shots or other relevant information to help us thoroughly investigate each concern.

Morton District 709 conducts regular emergency drills with students to prepare them for a multitude of situations: fire, tornado, evacuation and lock-down. We routinely assess, evaluate, and modify our safety plans and related technology to make sure we are prepared to prevent an emergency or respond to any situation.

We work closely with Morton Police and other first responders from the town of Morton and local agencies to conduct training at our school and participate in drills. In addition to emergency responders, the responses and actions of our students and staff are vital to ensuring a safe and secure learning environment. Prompt reporting of concerns is one of the most effective measures in school safety.

We ask that you take some time to discuss the idea of situational awareness with your student. Encourage students to be aware of their surroundings and to identify what can be a threat to health or safety. If there is ever a concern about information you see posted, please contact the school district so additional steps can be taken. We appreciate your added support at home as we continue to focus on the safety and well-being of all our students.

Sincerely,

*Jeffrey W. Hill*

*Superintendent*

*Morton District 709*