

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 29, 2018

5:30 p.m.

Dear Santa Fe ISD Community,

We continue to extend our deepest condolences and will continue to pray for our victims, their families, and our entire Santa Fe community. At this time, we would like to take a moment to share with you what our students experienced their first day back today, May 29, 2018.

On campuses across the district, students were greeted with an overwhelming number of alumni, community members, and students and employees from neighboring districts as they entered their respective schools. Parent and visitor check-in took longer than usual due to additional security measures initiated on every campus throughout the district. Local law enforcement, as well as officers from across the state, were on every campus throughout the district and will continue to be present until the last day of school, May 31, 2018. Additional security will also be present at our Class of 2018 commencement ceremony on June 1, 2018, at 7:30 p.m., at Joe Raitano Stadium. Out of respect for our students, staff, and the community, media will not be allowed on district property the remainder of the week including the evening of graduation. There will be live streaming of the graduation events beginning fifteen minutes before the event and may be viewed by going to [www.sfid.org](http://www.sfid.org).

We understand that many of our students were directly and indirectly impacted by the tragedy of Friday, May 18, 2018. With the assistance from many state and local agencies, we were able to provide mental health support throughout the district for our students and staff and will continue to do so for as long as there is a need.

Our Santa Fe Elementary and Junior High schools had a very smooth return to their campuses today. Students were greeted by their teachers wearing their Santa Fe Strong T-Shirts. Every student in the district received a Santa Fe Strong T-shirt during the course of their day. Students experienced an alternate schedule on campuses across the district. Kindergarten students prepared for their kindergarten graduation tomorrow while other grade levels celebrated with

award ceremonies, end of the year activities, and enjoyed the extra attention from the visiting officers and therapy dogs. Students were dismissed at their regular dismissal time.

The high school students, staff, parents, and community had a special visit from Governor Greg Abbott during a general assembly. Governor Abbott addressed the student body regarding the events of May 18th, and a school safety plan he will unveil tomorrow. The Governor honored our Santa Fe ISD Police Department, Santa Fe City Police Department, the Galveston County Sherriff's Department, and the Texas Department of Public Safety Officers with special commendations for their service on May 18, 2018, at Santa Fe High School. The remainder of the morning the Governor conducted Round Table discussions with students, parents and teachers.

Throughout the day high school students also participated in voluntary counseling sessions led by Critical Incident Stress Management Teams, and state and local agencies, which were assisted by district personnel.

As a district, we will continue to commit to ensuring that all of our students, staff and their families continue to receive the care and support they need during this time of healing.

**#SANTAFESTRONG**