

SANTA FE ISD

SAFETY MATTERS

Santa Fe ISD Safe and Secure Schools Update

August 24, 2018

Thank you very much for supporting our students and staff in making this a great start to the 2018-2019 school year in Santa Fe ISD! We want to share our gratitude and a few thoughts about **What Went Well** during the first week of school.

- When our students arrived, more than 650 teachers and staff started the school year with renewed enthusiasm and determination ready to stand strong and united to support our students.
- The first week of school is always an exciting time for our teachers, and they are already hard at work to make sure that all of their students reach their full potential. We also witnessed the professionalism and commitment of our office staff, who answered parent phone calls and guided them to the information they needed. Employees across the district are committed to serving our students as we work towards a successful school year for all!
- Our Santa Fe ISD Police Department covered our entire District and our schools with extra staff and patrols to ensure student safety on and off campus. Our police department includes 14 police officers, nine part-time officers and 10 campus security assistants, assigned to campuses to build relationships with students and keep them safe. They were also instrumental in securing the interior and perimeter of our schools during the school day.
- Our child nutrition employees served breakfast to 3,449 students and 12,327 lunches to students the first week of school, providing necessary nourishment for our students. Our students cannot focus on learning if they are hungry, and these employees serve nearly 645,000 meals each year, ensuring students nutritional needs are met with appealing and delicious meals.
- Our dedicated transportation department staff members began each day bright and early to drive 3,500 students to school, and then transported them back home at the end of the day. It takes more than 38 bus drivers to drive 2,700 miles every day-and they are committed to getting your students to and from their campuses safely. While they will continue to review and assess routes, pick up dismissal and departure times were reduced over prior years.
- Students entered clean buildings across our four campuses, thanks to our maintenance and facilities staff members who provided custodial and maintenance services to more than 922,849 square feet of building space in preparation for the return of our students.

We share all of this to thank you for your partnership with our District, and your support and patience as we work through challenges that may occur during the beginning and throughout the year, especially with the new metal detectors.

Metal Detectors

To help improve safety and security, Santa Fe ISD installed nineteen metal detectors with nine at the high school, six metal detectors at the junior high, and two metal detectors (a total of four) at both Roy J. Wollam Elementary and Dan J. Kubacak Elementary Schools.

Initial implementation of our metal detectors has progressed well this week. At the high school and junior high, after a week of student cooperation and learning and with a great deal of support from parents, all students were cleared through the metal detectors prior to the first bell and start of school! Your continued patience and support is needed and appreciated as we work to improve the entry process for the safety of our students!

Here are some tips for students that will help shorten the time it takes to move through the Metal Detectors:



- Learn the items that will not clear the detectors and be ready by removing them prior to entry.
- If possible, limit the number of metal items that you bring to school.
- Students might want to place all small metal items in one gallon sized Ziploc bag (PLEASE SEE ATTACHED PICTURE). This will allow students to easily take this out of their bag when they approach the metal detector.
- Keep backpacks clean and neat.
- Binders with multiple zippers take a long time to search, please consider using a binder without zippers.
- Any accessory or clothing item adorned with metals may create delays.

Dress Code

Standards for dress and grooming in Santa Fe ISD have been established to teach good grooming and hygiene, instill discipline and modesty, demonstrate respect for authority, prevent disruption, enhance safety and security, and provide a positive learning atmosphere. The dress code can be found in the student handbook for each campus. Click on the [2018-2019 Student Dress Code & Personal Grooming Requirements](#).

At the high school and junior high, student dress code and badges are checked before students enter the school building and are checked at each period daily (**Note: Junior high students will receive their badges next week**). Procedures, accountability and consequences are in place on each campus to enforce dress code.

Reminder: The Resiliency Center; Governor Abbott announced an additional \$1.8 million in grant funding

The Resiliency Center serves as a free long-term resource for healing the Santa Fe community. Yesterday, Governor Greg Abbott announced that the City of Santa Fe and Santa Fe ISD have been awarded over \$1.8 million in grant funding for the resiliency center and additional school and community counseling services.

The Center's caring professionals provide a safe and supportive healing environment dedicated to everyone affected by the incident. As a referral hub, the Center works with partner agencies that provide spiritual care referrals, training, advocacy, legal aid, equine therapy, recreational therapy, and more. The Resiliency Center is open daily, and for more information, contact the center directly at 409-218-7129 or email cgaylord@ci.santa-fe.tx.us

Questions?

Please submit any questions you may have to the Santa Fe Strong Interactive Web Portal at: santafeupdates.com/contact-us

Students, Staff & Parents

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support in making this a great start to the 2018-2019 school year in Santa Fe ISD. We also want to thank all of you for your patience, support and understanding as you experienced new procedures this school year to ensure a safe and secure learning environment. Have a restful, safe weekend, and we look forward to your return on Monday, August 27th!

United, we are Santa Fe Strong!