

Dear Star Valley Middle School Families,

At Star Valley Middle School, our commitment to your child's safety is unwavering. We continuously work to create a safe, secure, and welcoming environment, and we want to share an overview of the steps we are taking to safeguard our students and staff.

We have put various safety measures in place to ensure that our campus remains a secure environment for learning. While we cannot disclose all specific details to maintain the integrity of these measures, here are some of the key areas we focus on:

- **Enhanced Building Security:** We maintain controlled access to our building during school hours and use security technologies that help us monitor our campus effectively.
- **Emergency Preparedness:** Regular emergency drills—covering situations like lockdowns, fire, and evacuation—prepare students and staff to respond calmly and confidently. In coordination with local first responders, we have developed comprehensive response plans that are regularly reviewed and updated.
- **Visitor and Access Management:** Our procedures require all visitors to check in upon arrival, helping us monitor and manage access to the building.
- **Safe Learning Spaces:** Designated areas within the school provide additional security in emergencies, and our staff is trained to quickly secure classrooms and other spaces.
- **Communication Systems:** We have systems in place to ensure clear, efficient communication across the school, which is critical during emergencies. Staff also have access to tools that allow for constant communication with one another and with administration.

We also emphasize the importance of mental well-being and encourage students to share any safety concerns they might have:

- **Conflict Management and Student Support:** We provide ongoing training for staff to equip them with skills for handling difficult situations and supporting students.
- **Anonymous Reporting Options:** We offer a Safe-to-Tell hotline for students to confidentially report any concerns, from bullying to safety issues. (Students can find this number in their student planners.) This system ensures that students feel empowered to speak up, knowing their voices will be heard and respected. We'll be working to increase awareness about this resource to ensure all students know how to use it.

Thank you for your partnership in keeping Star Valley Middle School a safe place to learn and grow. If you have any questions or specific concerns, we encourage you to reach out to our office directly. Your trust and involvement are essential to the success of our safety initiatives.

Sincerely,

Steve Burch

Principal, Star Valley Middle School