

**San Marcos Middle School
Principal's Safety Assurance Statement
Melissa Hunt, Principal
2011-2012**

2011-2012 San Marcos Middle School Safety Plan

San Marcos Middle School in collaboration with parents and community members is committed to providing a safe and nurturing environment to meet the needs of all of our children. This philosophy is addressed through the following two questions:

1. How does the Safety Plan address the needs of the school and the students within the school?
2. How has the safety planning committee considered the three essential components when writing the plan; assuring each student a safe physical environment; providing an emotionally nurturing environment; and providing each student with resiliency skills?

School Safety Plan

School safety is a concern for all parties involved that include parents, community members, students, and staff. This variety of sources was utilized during the formulation of the plan. The committee included data derived from existing board policies, drop out rate data, crime reports, an analysis of the suspension/expulsion data, past plans, and public input from site council meetings. Input from the public is essential, as it provides an avenue for testimony and concerns to be received and considered when various needs are addressed. This information is analyzed and the new plan is developed focusing on specific needs of students, site, and community.

Essential Components

When the committee considered the three essential areas; safe physical environment, emotionally nurturing environment, and providing students with resiliency skills, the committee addressed the need to have components/procedures placed in each of the three areas within the plan. Most elements within the plan are designed and developed to cross over covering the needs of the school community from a variety of perspectives.

San Marcos Middle is committed to providing a safe physical environment. In addressing this area we have established procedures and guideline promoting a safe and drug free environment. Spearheading this effort are our Zero Tolerance policy; monthly fire, lockdown, site evacuation and earthquake preparedness drills; emergency procedures regarding Africanized Bees and bomb threats. Tried and tested procedures address the safe ingress and egress within the parking lot and surrounding areas. Several speed bumps were recently added to ensure appropriate speed is maintained. Staff wear bright colored vests to improve visibility when performing emergency preparedness drills, supervision duties or in aiding in the parking area. During emergency drills the vests aided in the ease of identification of staff for the

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command center. Crossing guards with stop signs provide added safety. The athletic department has found the use of issued walkie-talkies to be invaluable. The bike enclosure serves the student needs and securing the structure provides added protection of student property. Programs that have been implemented that also reassure student safety are: Safe Groups, Gang Prevention Programs, Unplugged, and Bullying Prevention for 6th graders. In response to parent concerns regarding gangs, we have provided forums on gang awareness in both English and Spanish. Another highly successful program is our PLUS Program sponsored by our Counseling Center. Additionally, the school safety plan provides procedures for a Student Discipline Plan that can be revised annually to best meet the needs of the school community. Procedures have been established regarding sexual harassment, student dress code, teacher notification of dangerous students, and campus supervisor duty stations. Lastly, supplying campus supervisors on supervision duty with communications radios aids in keeping students safe and provides communication within the supervisor staff.

An essential component the school safety plan takes into consideration is: *Does the school community provide for a nurturing environment?* Together with our parents and community, San Marcos Middle School has the following in place to address that need. SAFE Groups are offered on a weekly basis to develop self-esteem and conflict resolution skills, while developing caring and nurturing relationships between staff, students and peer. Several support groups have been formulated to address the needs of our students. These groups include a 6th, 7th, and 8th grade support groups, Latina support, and Boys/Girls Issues support groups. Another example is a revised edition of the teacher handbook offering guidance to teachers to positively interact with students in addition to providing assistance in proper routes to pursue if students are struggling in a particular area. Many of our teachers are available to students before and after school to provide academic support and extending time to build relationships with students to support personal success and achievement.

A critical element all students must develop is resiliency skills. Helping achieve this goal our plan contains multiple items. A range of meaningful activities engage students and build their confidence and resiliency including Boy's and Girl's Club, Club 49 Physical Fitness Facility, After School AVID, before school intervention class, ASB, the PLUS program, Lifeline counseling program. Finally, our Parent Handbook features our Code of Conduct and Student Academic Planner and Organizer is a tool that focuses on vocabulary, rules, expectations and planning skills that are used daily. Teachers monitor student use of the planners during the school day, supporting students as they learn to be organized and plan ahead.

Melissa Hunt
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