



PECATONICA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 321

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September 12, 2024

Good Afternoon,

As Superintendent of Schools, I wanted to provide our families and community with an update on how our mandated Active Shooter Drills went today in each building. The topic of active school shootings has unfortunately been pushed back to the front of everyone's mind with the recent incidents over the past couple of weeks. While this is a mandated training, it is a training that I pray we never ever have to use in real life.

Overall, the students and staff did an excellent job of handling the situation that our local law enforcement officers provided as a scenario. The law enforcement officers commented to me about how impressed they were to see our students and staff professionally approach the drill which is not always the case in many of the places they conduct drills. Our district approach is to use the drills as a learning opportunity. It allows our students and staff to take a scenario and think about what the best options would be based on the location of a potential suspect. We are not about trying to use shock and awe but rather make it a learning moment to the best of our ability.

As part of my update, I need to address an incident that took place at the middle school during their drill. A student made an inappropriate comment about school shooters that was immediately reported to staff. This prompted our Threat Assessment Team members to follow our threat assessment matrix. The incident has been investigated and it has been deemed that there is NO Threat. Unfortunately, the incident sparked an unnecessary disruption to the school day which will be addressed accordingly.

Again, overall our students and staff did an excellent job. However, I would also like to remind our students, families, and community that inappropriate comments of this nature regarding the safety of students and staff are taken seriously. Based on what is going on in society all around us, these types of comments are no joking matter and there are consequences for the disruption they cause in the school setting.

Yours in Education,

Carl B. Carlson
Superintendent