



EXCELLENCE ★ INNOVATION

Superintendent: Matt Doyle, Ed.D.

Board Members: Martha Alvarado, Julie Kelly, Debbie Morton, Rosemary Smithfield, and Cipriano Vargas

To All Families of the Vista High School Football Team Players,

I am writing to provide you with information about some very concerning allegations of student-to-student misconduct among football team members, and I want to share with you the information that I have at this time and our immediate and more long-term next steps.

Situation

- A student reported that misconduct was taking place between players in the locker room. The allegations were deeply disturbing.
- Upon learning about this late last Thursday night, I contacted the District early Friday morning to initiate all appropriate next steps. The three-day weekend did cause some delays in our being able to gather facts so that I could share with you a more complete situation.
- As required by law, the District notified local law enforcement. The Vista Sheriff's Department is currently conducting an investigation among team members.
- Parents – Please know law enforcement is contacting parents for permission prior to speaking with any students.
- The District has retained an outside investigator who will begin interviewing witnesses on Monday, September 12, 2022.
- Once the investigation is completed, we will take action based on the findings and our policies.
- Please understand we may not discuss specific students or provide you names or details, as that would violate strict privacy rights and laws. We encourage you and your students to avoid discussing students on social media, as we do not want to compromise the investigation or privacy rights.

If you do have information that may assist the investigation, please contact the investigator, Howard Fulfrost, directly at hfulfrost@f3law.com.

Immediate Safety Action Plan

- The coaches at all levels of the program will provide daily supervision of the locker room with administrative oversight.
- We will be adding a campus assistant to assist with locker room oversight for football PE.
- I, David Jaffe, will speak directly with all levels of the football program clearly articulating the expectation that they WILL treat each other and their fellow classmates with respect.
- Additionally, I will address the expectation that absolutely no bullying behavior will be tolerated.
- Counseling services will be made available to any player who seeks support.
- The investigation will be ongoing until all facts of the reported incidents are ascertained.



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Longer-Term Action Plan

We will be reviewing and amplifying:

- Current supervision protocol to ensure there is adult supervision at all times when athletes are preparing and finishing practice/games,
- A review of all supervision protocol with the entire football program,
- A system for players and/or coaches to easily report misconduct,
- Student-athlete behavior expectations for EVERY athletic program led by an administrator, Athletic Director, and head coach, and
- Mandated reporter training for every coach.

Request to Meet

I invite you to join me for a parents/family team meeting on Monday, September 12 @ 5:30 pm. The meeting will be hosted in the VHS Library. At this meeting we will discuss the steps that we will be taking to increase supervision and reinforce our expectations for student conduct. I can share progress on the investigation in general terms. I will be able to take your questions and outline the steps that we are taking to augment safety support systems for the football program and players. I realize that you may have questions that I have not addressed in this message, so I encourage you to bring them to the aforementioned meeting.

There is nothing more important than providing our students with safe and healthy learning environments, and this includes our fields, locker rooms and during all extra-curricular activities. Please know that this situation has my full attention. The delay in getting you information is largely due to my working to gather facts so that I could address you honestly and with as much information as possible.

I thank you for your kind attention to this important message.

Respectfully,

David Jaffe
David Jaffe
Principal