

From the Principal ...

SAFETY AND SECURITY AT BERNARDO YORBA

High profile school shooting incidents in the past couple of years have caused many parents to voice concerns about safety and security at their children's schools. Bernardo Yorba has developed a comprehensive safety plan that includes prevention, intervention and crisis response.

The administrators are committed to visibility on campus, and all three are on duty at snack break, both lunches, and after school. Teachers are assigned to assist with supervision both before and after school. In addition, three trained campus supervisors (one full-time and two part-time) assist with campus supervision during school hours, and are often assigned to supervise special events outside of school hours. A uniformed police officer is assigned to every Bernardo Yorba dance. All staff members are expected to be vigilant at all times, and to report any problems or concerns to the administration immediately.

Bernardo Yorba's Code of Conduct delineates the behavioral expectations for students, and is strictly enforced. Our school counselor is available to assist students with personal and social problems, and intervenes in crisis situations as they arise. All reports of bullying are taken seriously. Each report is investigated and resolved promptly to avoid an atmosphere of harassment and intimidation.

The mandatory student uniform dress program ("Dress for Success") makes it difficult for students to conceal weapons and/or contraband, or to identify with negative groups or gangs. The standardized dress also makes it easier for school personnel to spot intruders on campus, and reduces the harassment or teasing of students perceived as "different."

Our comprehensive diversity education program, "Celebrating Our Differences," is designed to reduce prejudicial attitudes among students and provide role models on campus for non-violent solutions to conflict. Our Conflict Mediation program, Advisement program, Principal's Council, and American Multicultural Week all serve to promote a safe and positive school climate.

Our response plans for fire and natural disasters are in place, as well as an emergency lockdown plan for situations where there is an imminent threat to the safety of students and staff. Although no school can guarantee the absolute safety of its students, I can guarantee that Bernardo Yorba has done, and will continue to do, everything within its power to protect them.

Parents can help by reminding their children of their civic responsibility to report to a staff member anything they see or hear that would lead them to believe that the health and/or safety of members of the Bernardo Yorba school community are in jeopardy. Every effort will be made to maintain the anonymity of the reporting party.