



Joylynn Wilson  
Superintendent of Schools

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March 12, 2010

Dear Parents/Guardians, Staff, and Community:

On March 11, three separate, unrelated incidents occurred at University City High School. The school administration, security personnel and the University City Police Department acted quickly in each of these incidents to ensure the safety of our students and staff. In each of these incidents, the students were suspended pending the outcome of the school investigation and subsequent disciplinary hearings.

The local news media reported on the incidents, but not all reported information was accurate. Two of the incidents were minor, but a third incident between two students resulted in one student receiving medical attention and the other being arrested. There were no weapons of any kind found on school premises or used in any of these incidents.

The District increased the presence of security and central office staff to ensure the continued safety of students and staff. Students were released for spring break, and I met with all staff from the high school immediately following the dismissal of students. The teachers did not take a vote of no confidence related to Principal Wernentin's ability or my ability to keep them safe, as one news station reported last night.

I want you to know that student safety in each of our schools remains a high priority for the District. Administrators, teachers, counselors, support staff, school security staff and the University City Police Department work together to ensure campus security and student safety while at school. That includes the enforcement of our school discipline code, dress code and attendance. As a school district and a community, we cannot and will not tolerate the lawless acts of the few to disrupt the learning environment for everyone else.

We also need the help of parents to ensure a proper learning environment for your child and every child in our school district. We are asking parents/guardians to do the following:

- Talk regularly with your children about the importance of their education and the importance of following school rules and policies.
- Encourage your children to talk about their school day and any concerns they may have.
- If your children feel threatened or unsafe at school, encourage them to tell a teacher or other staff member. If they refuse, please contact the school yourself and share your concerns and any information you have regarding the issue.
- Encourage your children to let a teacher or other staff member know if they see or hear anything about fighting, weapons or other illegal activities in school.

We wish students and staff a safe, happy spring break, and we look forward to seeing them again on March 22 for the start of fourth quarter.

Sincerely,

Joylynn Wilson  
Superintendent of Schools