

SANTA FE ISD

SAFETY MATTERS

Santa Fe ISD Safe and Secure Schools Update

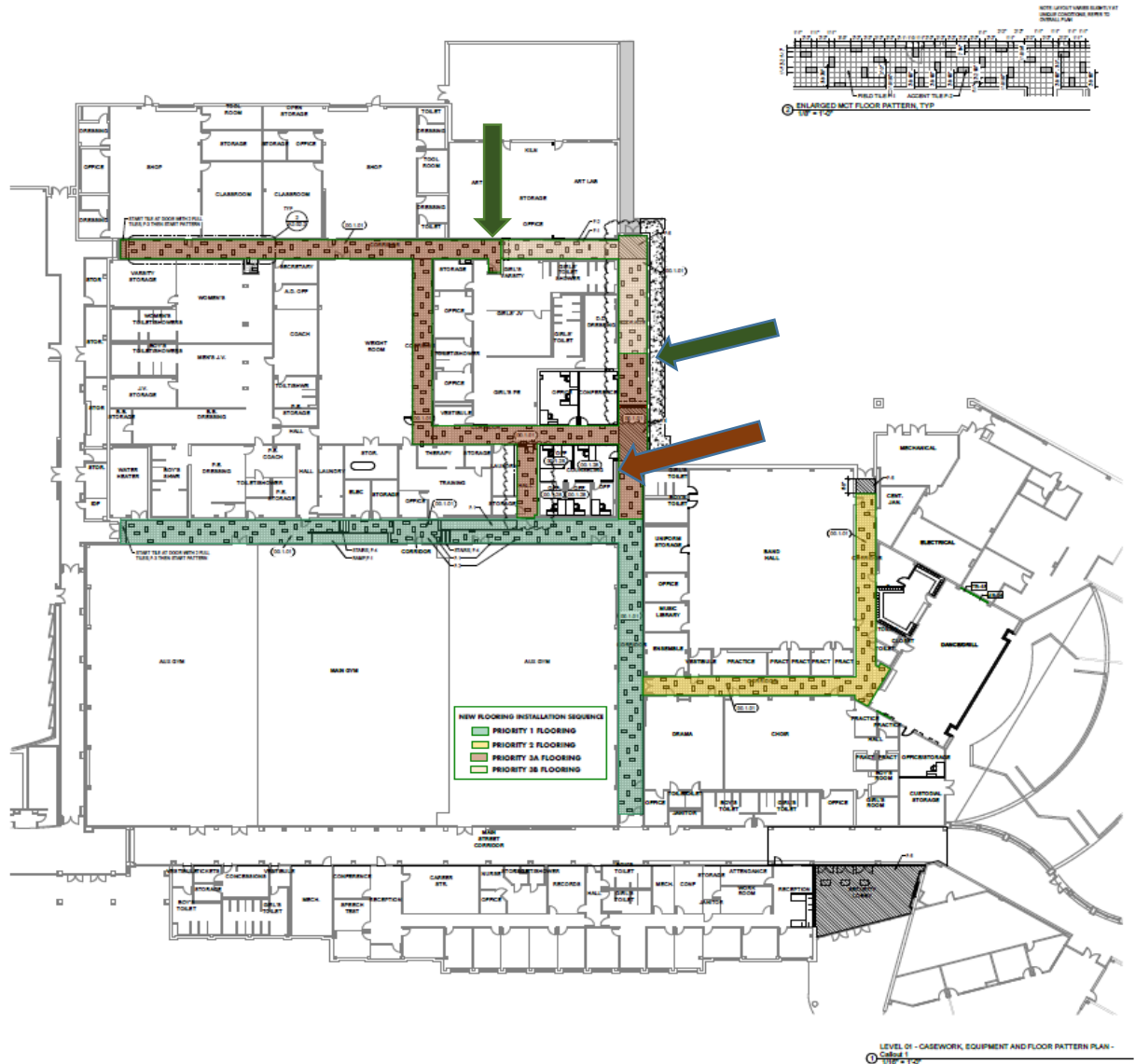
September 14, 2018

Weather Reminders: The 2018 Atlantic Hurricane Season began on June 1, and at that time experts predicted an above normal season. We are in the middle of hurricane season and closely monitoring any disturbances in the Gulf of Mexico. Current forecasts show that the disturbance in the Gulf will likely bring a great deal of rain with isolated bands of heavy rain in some areas. We will continue to provide weather updates as needed.

At any time, should there be a change in regular schedules or closure, we will notify you by phone, email, text, social media channels and local TV and other media. Our website has a [Safety Information](#) tab on the right bar on our homepage that has a [link](#) to complete information about school closures or early dismissal.

Safety and Security Parent Survey Planned: The District is committed to continuous improvement to our safety and security measures, many of which are new this year. Before the end of the semester, the District will be asking parents and staff members to take a Safety and Security Parent Survey to share your opinions and suggestions on how the new safety and security measures are working and in what areas we need to improve. At the beginning of the school year, we asked about communication preferences and that survey closes on Monday, September 17. We want to continue the rich and honest dialogue with our staff, students, parents and community to learn more about your recommendations to enhance safety and security measures that have been put in place this year.

Ongoing Mental Health and Wellness Services are intended to support and encourage healing and recovery from the May 18 traumatic experience. There have been questions regarding how the District is using the four offices for trauma and wellness counselors, that are located adjacent to the band hall and highlighted in brown in the diagram on page 2. The green arrows indicate a stationary wall which prohibits access past that point. These specialized counselors also make themselves available to meet privately with students in the library. Since classes began on August 20, these counselors have seen 334 students and 19 adults. We are fortunate to have trauma trained, caring individuals to support and encourage healing and recovery for our students and staff.



Bus Safety Reminders

We would like to remind drivers to respect the flashing reds of school busses by not passing stopped busses which are in the process of loading or discharging our children. This also pertains to drivers approaching the bus from the opposite direction on a two-way street, or an undivided highway. Please be mindful of Highway 6, FM 1764, and FM 646 as these are not divided highways and motorists are required to stop. In addition to bus safety, motorists are reminded to observe posted school zone speed limits and times, follow the direction of crossing guards and traffic control officers, as well as utilizing only hands free cellular devices during active school zone times.

High School Safe School Ambassador® Program

Safe School Ambassadors (SSA) is an international program that enables schools to develop a cadre of motivated, trained, and supported student opinion leaders who de-escalate conflict and reduce exclusion, cruel humor, bullying, and other forms of mistreatment on their campuses. The program identifies and selects student leaders from diverse groups across the campus. Ambassadors are trained in the skills of non-violent communication to stop bullying, cyberbullying and harassment. Santa Fe High School has identified approximately 40 students and eight teachers who will attend a two-day training in which students develop essential skills in observing, negotiating, intervening, reporting and referral, and the adults learn how to facilitate ongoing Family Group meetings to provide Ambassadors with supervision, skill development and support. Since 2000, the Safe School Ambassadors Program has been implemented in over 1,500 schools, training over 70,000 students and over 10,000 adults in 38 US states, Puerto Rico, Guam and Canada.

Junior High Lead Now Program

Lead Now is a leadership initiative at SFJH is designed to equip our students with the skills necessary to find success extending beyond the walls of the classroom. This is accomplished by introducing students to ideas and fundamentals of leadership skills. The goal is to teach students how to make decisions now that can have a lasting impact on our school and the community as a whole. Through Lead Now, students are given proven leadership strategies, hear from successful community leaders, and go out on service projects to place their leadership skills in action. Through this endeavor we hope to give the students of the Santa Fe Junior High the resources and skills necessary to make a positive impact on society for generations to come. By equipping an abundance of students on campus with the resources needed to develop strong social skills with character, we will see amazing things happening throughout our district.

Dan J. Kubacak Safety Patrol

The 5th graders at Dan J. Kubacak Elementary have the opportunity to participate in the Tribal Leaders Safety Patrol. The members of the Safety Patrol are committed to setting an excellent example for others to follow. They ensure safety both at arrival and dismissal. The Safety Patrol members model respect, responsibility and integrity for other students. These students are developing leadership skills by serving others.

Roy J. Wollam Builds TRIBE leaders

Roy J. Wollam Elementary incorporates safety lessons through a collaborative approach with the administrative staff, counselors, and staff. This approach maintains a high degree of awareness, involvement, and an expectation of excellence while sustaining a caring and safe learning environment. Where together they are building leaders as a TRIBE: Trustworthy, Respectful, Independent, Being Our Best and Empathetic.

Reminder: The Resiliency Center provides free long-term services at no cost to Santa Fe community members. The Center's caring professionals provide a safe and supportive healing environment dedicated to everyone affected by the incident. As a referral hub, the Center

works with partner agencies that provide spiritual care referrals, training, advocacy, legal aid, equine therapy, recreational therapy, and more. The Resiliency Center is open daily, and for more information, contact the center directly at 409-218-7129 or email cgaylord@ci.santa-fe.tx.us.

Questions?

Please submit any questions you may have to the Santa Fe Strong Interactive Web Portal at: santafeupdates.com/contact-us