

October 31, 2019

Dear Sugar Land Middle School Parents and Guardians,

The well-being and safety of every member of our learning community, which includes students, faculty, parents, and visitors, has been and will always be our number one priority. As our campus mission statement says, "...we will commit to creating a safe environment with high expectations..." This safe environment consists of more than just physical safety—it extends to emotional safety, as well. We wanted to make you aware of a situation that occurred today during a passing period where one of our most heavily traveled hallways and intersections became congested with students to the point where students could not pass through the hallway or the intersection. This congestion occurred because of a verbal altercation between two students that a large number of students ran toward, rather than move away from, causing a potentially dangerous situation for everyone in that area.

Part of our Titan Way is having expectations in common areas like the hallways and the cafeteria where students stay to the right and continue to move forward and not stop so that a constant flow of students may occur during our passing periods. Our hallways are not particularly wide, so traffic must continue moving, especially at intersections, so that there is never a bottleneck or backup of student traffic. Ordinarily the students do a fine job of this, but in the moment experienced today, this did not occur. Fortunately, staff that were in the hallway monitoring the passing period quickly moved in to assist and restore order and movement.

Combined with these common area expectations, we constantly encourage your children to seek assistance from a counselor, grade level assistant principal, or teacher, when they are having difficulty with a fellow student. We want to help them find resolution to the concern before it escalates. But the adults in the building cannot carry the load by themselves to create and maintain a safe environment. It may start with the adults, but it does not end with them. Every child has a responsibility to himself and to his fellow students to create and maintain our safe environment. This means seeking help when it is needed and moving away from situations to seek adult help when it appears that it may escalate into something serious, putting others in potential danger.

Please take some time tonight to talk to your children about the ideas and concepts mentioned in this letter. The degree to which the physical, social, emotional, and academic success that all of our Titans experience comes in direct proportion to the ongoing, harmonious, and balanced efforts between students, parents, and school staff. I am thankful to all of our community members for their constant support given to our students and staff, and I further look forward to a great day tomorrow when we see all of our wonderful Titans again.

Please stay safe this Halloween evening.

Kindest regards,

Keith Fickel, Principal