



# University Elementary School

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*Dr. Gretchen Morgan, Principal*

Dear University Families,

I hosted an informational session on Thursday, April 5 at 6 p.m. at University Elementary and presented school specific safety information for parents. I am providing you with a summary of that meeting if you have interest, yet were unable to attend. The following district personnel joined me to answer parent questions: Dr. Andrea Mobley, Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Chris Ciolli, Director of Building Operations, Mr. Jim Witmer, School Resource Officer, Mrs. Becky Rose, Director of Student Services, and Dr. Deb Prenkert, Director of Elementary Education. The support of these representatives truly demonstrates a team of support from the district level to ensure safety of all our children. I am also grateful for the commitment of our UES Team that was present: Mrs. Kari Esarey, Assistant Principal, Mrs. Georgia Koushiefes, Social Worker, Mrs. Rachel Sheets, Teacher and Safety Committee Representative, Mrs. Paris King and Mrs. Shelley Donahue, Administrative Assistants and Safety Committee Representatives.

I presented information about University Safety Processes in three categories: preventative, responsive, and educative. Preventative measures include continually reviewing and refining a comprehensive safety plan for our school that includes collaboration and accountability checks with our School Resource Officer. Our UES Safety Committee is comprised of 13 staff members that meet on a regular basis. Continual professional development for teachers is infused into faculty meeting time dedicated to safety processes and regular discussion of safety scenarios. We utilize a nationally recognized threat assessment protocol immediately if there is a concern that student or school safety is compromised. While responsive and educative measures are incredibly important, we largely focus on preventative measures to lessen the responsive measures necessary. Educative measures about safety are embedded into our everyday instruction for our students at the classroom level and with the support of our social worker.

Finally, how can parents help? -Talk to your child about the importance of school safety. Emphasize why UES is a safe place. Continue open communication so your child reports any concerns to an adult immediately. -Report any safety concerns to school personnel, including any concerning material on social media platforms. -Follow school safety processes including arrival and dismissal procedures and sign-in processes when visiting school. -Talk to school leaders if you have questions, concerns, or ideas to refine school safety processes. Continue to learn more about school safety processes. University families, thank you for your continued support! It takes all of us to make our school safe!

Sincerely,

Dr. Gretchen Morgan



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