



ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Education Center
1401 North Handy Street • Orange, CA 92867-4334
www.orangeusd.org

Board of Education

Alexia L. Deligianni, Ed.D.

Rick Ledesma

Kathryn A. Moffat

John H. Ortega

Diane Singer

Timothy Surridge

Mark Wayland

714.628.4533

714.628.4041 (FAX)

board@orangeusd.org

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Superintendent of Schools

Michael L. Christensen

714.628.4487

714.628.4041 (FAX)

superintendent@orangeusd.org

December 21, 2012

Dear Parents and Community Members,

As educators, parents, and fellow citizens, we are shocked and dismayed by the tragedy that occurred last Friday at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut. As more information becomes available with respect to this event, we will reevaluate and refine our safety plans as appropriate. On behalf of the Board of Education and all employees of the Orange Unified School District, please know that our primary concern is the safety and well-being of your children.

The Orange Unified School District takes safety and security very seriously. Strong emergency plans are in place at all school and support sites, where our protocols are consistently practiced and refined. The supportive and respectful relationship between OUSD and local law enforcement brings with it tremendous resources, allowing us to anticipate and prepare for a myriad of emergencies we hope will never happen. Representatives from both Police and Fire regularly collaborate with OUSD on emergency procedures, providing valuable knowledge and expert insight. Our goal is continuous improvement of OUSD's protocols and procedures so that our students and staff remain safe.

When the District reopens on January 7, 2013, staff from the Psychological Services Department as well as school counselors will be available on-site to provide support for those who may need it. Additionally, police officers and sheriff's deputies will be visiting our campuses to provide reassurance to students, staff, and parents that the safety of our schools is also a priority for law enforcement.

Please contact your school or the Office of Student and Community Services if you have any questions. The Director of Student and Community Services, Mike Pollok, can be reached at (714) 628-5424 or mikep@orangeusd.org.

Sincerely,

Michael L. Christensen
Superintendent of Schools