



RIO NORTE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

WILLIAM S. HART UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Good Morning Parents,

In the Hart District, we recognize that the safety and security of our students and staff is our first priority. With that in mind, I'm writing to let you know about a positive new safety resource that will soon be available at all of our school sites.

In 2015, the American College of Surgeons in coordination with the White House launched a new campaign called "Stop the Bleed." This initiative was designed to "*cultivate grassroots efforts that encourage bystanders to become trained, equipped, and empowered to help in a bleeding emergency before professional help arrives.*" The "Stop the Bleed" campaign arose from a presidential policy directive that called for strengthening the security and resilience of communities and their ability to respond to potential threats and natural disasters.

This past year, the District was approached by Dr. Bud Lawrence of Henry Mayo Hospital with an ambitious plan to equip every classroom in the Hart District with portable emergency response kits designed to be used in critical bleeding situations. Dr. Lawrence's daughters, Cambria and Maci, took it upon themselves to secure over \$100,000 in donations to make this program (renamed Keep the Pressure) a reality.

Last month, the District received delivery of the Keep the Pressure kits that include tools, such as tourniquets and medical grade hemostatic gauze, which can be used to save lives in the event of a bleeding emergency. In all, over 1,000 of the kits have been distributed to school sites, adding another layer of security to our plans to keep everyone safe in the Hart District

We recognize that the idea of introducing emergency bleed control kits to classrooms may raise some level of concern about school violence. However, we agree with the experts who advocate for a proactive approach to school safety. While the kits would indeed be a critical resource in the unlikely event of an incidence of violence on campus, they are also valuable in light of our region's propensity for earthquakes and the potential for injury that this involves.

In addition to the Keep the Pressure kits being distributed to each classroom, schools have been asked to schedule time to show a short training video during morning announcements and during a faculty meeting. The video is age-appropriate and can be previewed at the following link:

<https://vimeo.com/287734607>

Thank you for working together with us to ensure the best environment for the students and staff of the Hart District.

Thank you,
Audrey Asplund
Principal
Rio Norte Junior High School