

Dear MVC Families:

Greetings from the beauty of campus on this sunny Wednesday afternoon. I sure hope this finds you well and enjoying fall in some way!

I am giving you an update and perspective on Mount Vernon Christian's safety and security with a focus on our community, culture, and mission. Our students are our priority, and their safety and flourishing is paramount. School safety and security is a critical focus, practice, and exercise. We see campus safety as our efforts for our internal, daily operations to be done safely, and campus security as our efforts to be secure against external threats. We are mindful and vigilant about both from all of our aspects whether recess, building entry points, traffic, transportation, events, and classrooms to name a few areas. We are also interested in keeping an inviting and warm atmosphere in our buildings and on our campus.

Our Safety and Security Team, made up of administration, support staff, and teachers, has been working on several things:

- A safety and security assessment with law enforcement representatives, specifically one trained in school safety and security
- Campus and transportation communication equipment research and future purchasing
- Training in the I LOVE YOU GUYS situation response protocol for staff and drills for students
- Vigilance on campus and around building perimeters with entry doors locked
- Campus cameras and monitoring, traffic flow and parking

We are improving in several areas related to building security, evacuation and reunification, and more robust response protocols.

All schools in Skagit County and many outside our County have all adopted the I Love U Guys Situation Response Protocol. This gives all school personnel and first responders a common language and standard response to use in various situations.

We ask you to familiarize yourselves with the SRP terminology and information, which is attached. This gives you a common language as well, so you know what type of situation may be occurring on campus, as well as what our response is/was when you hear it. You play an important role in responding appropriately as well.

In closing, we are working to improve our safety and security. We seek God's protection, strive to be safe and secure, and solicit your insights for further improvements. Please let me know if you have any questions or comments regarding MVC's safety and security.

Paul Bootsma