

Update 9.11.18

Good Afternoon,

✚ As many of you know, we had a very serious incident on campus yesterday. Here is the message I sent last night:

Two MAST@FIU high school students were assaulted on Monday morning, while walking in a remote area on the east side of the Biscayne Bay Campus of FIU. Both students were transported to an area hospital, where they remain under observation and care. Detectives from the FIU Police Department responded to the incident and are leading the investigation to identify and apprehend the offender in this case. A campus-wide alert was issued by the university.

While the incident did not happen while school was in session or in our facility, we ask that you speak to your children about remaining vigilant and aware of their surroundings. We also ask that, at this time, you join the MAST@FIU family in wishing these two students a speedy recovery.

✚ The students are still in the hospital. I am in frequent contact with the parents of our students and the prognosis is positive for both.

✚ I visited every class this morning to talk with students about safety and to inform them that we had additional counselors in place to assist them today. Our counselor, Ms. Elkhoury will continue to support our student's academic and psychological needs beyond today.

✚ The Superintendent of Schools Alberto Carvalho and FIU President Mark Rosenberg were here today to support our students and address local media representatives.

✚ I know that yesterday's event further highlights the growing concerns about safety in our community and schools. I can assure you that the protection and welfare of our students are a top priority for Miami-Dade County Public Schools, FIU and this administrator. Personnel from both institutions meet regularly to discuss what improvements can be made to our security protocols. The following information highlights what is currently in place:

- Two full-time FIU police officers are on campus during the day and night.
- The school employs a full-time school monitor. A part-time monitor has been hired and second one is being processed to provide additional support and supervision during lunch and after school until 4:00 PM.
- Students and staff have been trained on how to react in case of an emergency.
- Two large group orientations were conducted with students to educate them about common sense security procedures.
- The number of evacuation and lockdown drills have been increased.
- A Student Court has been convened to address dress code violations and attendance.

- A Crime Watch program has begun to support the security efforts on this campus..
- A full-time counselor is available on site to address student concerns as they arise.

✚ We ask that you speak to your child about the following common-sense rules we have in place to further protect our students:

- Never travel alone; there is safety in numbers.
- Never enter or remain in an unoccupied room.
- Be aware of your surroundings and the people around you.
- Develop an exit strategy so you can leave an area quickly and safely.
- Meet in areas that are open and supervised by adults.
- Never venture into areas that are remote and/or unsupervised.

✚ In the next few days, your child will learn about all the wonderful clubs, societies, and activities we have available after school. We ask that you encourage your child to be part of, at least one of these activities. It will help them academically and socially, and it looks great on a college application.

✚ We ask that you pick up your child immediately after school at 2:30 PM or 4:00 PM if they are involved in an activity or club.

✚ We know that many of our students have dual enrollment classes and some classes extend beyond 2:30 PM. We ask that these students remain in populated areas, such as library and the university center where there is adult supervision.

✚ Our students are never asked to venture into remote areas of the campus or to collect marine samples without direct adult supervision. Although the BBC of FIU has one of the highest adult to student ratios as compared to other sites, there are areas on the campus, particularly on the southern end of the property, where there is no supervision or ready assistance.

✚ I am very proud of our staff and students for their continued vigilance and support of our campus safety program. I understand the concern for greater safety; however, we must remember that our greatest strength comes from fact that we are many and they are few. In this instance, only one. Our students understand the importance of saying something when they see or believe something or someone is not safe.

Thank you for your attention. Until next time... bye for now.