



**Clovis West  
High School**

1070 E. Teague Ave. Fresno,  
CA 93720-1899  
(559) 327-2000  
FAX (559) 327-2490  
www.cusd.com

**Marc Hammack, Ed.D.**  
*Principal*

**Tony LeFore**  
*Deputy Principal*

**Karen Boone**  
*Learning Director*

**Tom Brocklebank**  
*Student Services Learning Director*

**Matt Hernandez**  
*Learning Director*

**Blair Lambert**  
*Learning Director*

**Matt Loggins**  
*Athletic Director, Learning Director*

**Katie Doherty**  
*Activities Director*

**Eimear O'Farrell, Ed.D.**  
*CWA Assistant Superintendent*



Today, we learned of the crushing loss of another one of our Clovis West students. While we do not know all of the details surrounding this situation, and want to respect the privacy of the family involved, it is a heartbreaking blow to our students, staff and the entire Clovis West community.

I'm writing today to share with you actions taken today to support our students and staff, and to share existing and on-going efforts designed to support the social and emotional well-being of kids. Additionally, I am inviting our entire community to join us in our efforts to reach out to students about whom they might be concerned. When a family member or friend is experiencing emotional struggles, please reach out to us and we will act immediately to offer hope, encouragement and support. I would also like to provide you with the national suicide prevention hotline which is available 24 hours a day at 1-888-506-5991 and can act as a resource for anyone with questions.

Often, these conversations are difficult. Balancing a topic that requires sensitivity and privacy in order to get our students to open up about their challenges is often done behind the scenes and confidentially. We have also made social-emotional support of students a topic at a number of recent parent meetings including SART, our Foundation West, School Site Council, and our students' PASA (Principal Advisory for Student Affairs) that included sharing resources that parents can access here at school and in the community.

Today on our campus:

- More than a dozen school psychologists were on site actively meeting with students. They will continue to be on campus into the coming days.
- A therapy dog was present and circulating on site and accessible to any student or staff.
- Teachers talked with students and connected them with resources available on site. We have also reached out to the parents of any student who accessed these resources.
- Visits to all English classrooms by a team of school counselors and psychologists previously scheduled for Friday will take place. Topics that will be discussed include the resources available on campus and how to access these resources as well as stressing to students the importance of letting an adult know if they are struggling emotionally, or know of a friend who is struggling.
- A poster is being distributed to all classrooms and offices to visually remind students how and where to access all types of help on campus.
- An anonymous tip line is also under development for students or family members who would like to contact the school to request assistance. Feedback from students has indicated an increased willingness to report concerns if there is an option for anonymity.

Today's actions are in addition to existing support structures in place at our school that include:

- School psychologists, counselors and nurses at every school site. These trained professionals are available for any student to take advantage of through self-, peer-, staff-, or parent- referral.
- Adult-led and peer counseling facilitated by trained professionals exists around a number of social-emotional issues ranging from the loss of a loved one and eating disorders, to suicide prevention and living with divorce. The number of these groups has been intentionally increased over the past 12-18 months because of positive feedback we've received from students.
- Every ninth grade student in the district receives education in suicide prevention and awareness in their required health class, and students campus-wide are encouraged to contact an adult if they know of a student (or are personally experiencing) emotional struggles.
- Staff members continue to refer students who are exhibiting signs that they are struggling emotionally for further psychological evaluation by outside mental health services. This is often done in collaboration with a student's family.
- Special guest speakers are often brought to our campuses to talk to students about the larger issues of self-respect and respect to others, suicide and substance abuse and other social emotional topics. Last spring, all high school students in the district including those at Clovis West, participated in a powerful assembly by Chris Herren that, in part, emphasized resources available for students. Counselors were on hand after that assembly and met with a number of students at every school site to provide support.

Today's news, as well as the news of previous losses, has been deeply felt on our campus by both students and staff members. We have encouraged each other to seek support and encouragement from family and friends. These groups offer a natural support system that is extremely important in times such as this. At the same time, we recognize that not everyone has such relationships available to them. We invite you to take advantage of the school resources that I shared above so that we can pull together to help our students know that they are cared for and cared about each and every day.

Sincerely,

Marc Hammack, Ed.D.  
Principal, Clovis West High School