

April 17, 2019

Dear DCIS @ Fairmont Families,

We are excited to welcome our students back to school tomorrow knowing that yesterday's security threat has ended and that our schools are safe.

These kinds of incidents are stressful for all of us, but especially for our children. Our mental health team and our teachers are prepared to support our students on their return. If you have questions about talking to your children about a fear of school violence, please read the article that Ms. Slaymaker has shared: <https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources/school-safety-and-crisis/talking-to-children-about-violence-tips-for-parents-and-teachers> and is also on our Facebook page.

Today all DPS school leaders participated in a webinar to share their experience with this week's events. We learned that DPS received direction from the state right around dismissal time that schools should do both a lockout and a controlled release. Like other school districts in the metro area experienced, there was no precedent for doing a lockout and controlled release district-wide during dismissal time. Additionally, there were delays in messages being received by school leaders. We understand that DPS is reviewing all of its communication software and emergency communication plans based on the events of this week. The district is committed to learn and continue to improve these systems and support our school in having the safest steps in place.

Thank you for entrusting your children to us. Safety of our students is our top priority and we are grateful to our law enforcement for working quickly to avert a potential threat to our schools in Colorado.

Stay tuned for more information from the district.

Best,
Helen Butts
Principal, DCIS @ Fairmont