



Dekaney High School

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SPRING INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

May 13, 2011

Dear Dekaney Parents,

As you know, I have been regularly communicating with you to keep you informed of the progress of our investigation of the disruption that occurred at about 1 p.m. May 5 in the downstairs hallway at Dekaney High School. As the principal of Dekaney High School, I take responsibility for the incident and its resolution. I am ready to share with you the facts from the investigation that we have been able to determine about the recent disruption.

The Dekaney administration and Spring ISD Police Department conducted a thorough investigation.

Multiple student transitions were occurring at Dekaney at that time. Sixty students were leaving the campus for transportation to Carl Wunsche Sr. High School, 95 students were leaving the campus due to early dismissal, 600 students were leaving the cafeteria following their lunch period and about 2,200 students were going to their sixth-period class. The primary route for these students to get to their destination is the downstairs hallway where the disruption occurred.

The investigation determined that the disruption began when one student hit another student, which escalated into multiple incidents in the crowded hallway.

Administrators, hall monitors, campus police officers and teachers were on duty when the disruption occurred. They immediately moved to intervene, and extra Spring ISD police officers were called for assistance. Nine additional officers responded.

The disruption, which lasted approximately 40 minutes, included stopping the disruption, getting students into their appropriate classrooms and escorting early dismissal students out of the building. It was contained in the downstairs hallway and brought under control by campus administrators and Spring ISD police officers.

Two students were injured, treated by the school nurse and transported to Houston Northwest Medical Center. Both students have been released.

Nineteen students were suspended and/or placed at Highpoint School North for contributing to the disruption, and one of those students was arrested for refusing to obey a police officer's directive.

I believe that transition periods that channel large groups of students through the downstairs hallway at the same time contributed to the disruption. Therefore, I am adjusting schedules for when students transition to control the number of students in the hallway during the school day. In addition, I am increasing adult supervision throughout the hallway during transitions.

An action plan that includes several components has been implemented at Dekaney High School in response to the disruption.

- Parents received available information about the disruption by phone and email on the day of the disruption and additional phone and email messages are being used to update parents.

- The school's zero tolerance policy for student misbehavior has been re-emphasized and communicated to students and parents. Any student causing disruptions will be immediately removed from the school. Administrators and counselors are making class visits to talk to students regarding behavior expectations and address their concerns.

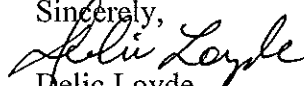
- Students are being reminded how to access school counselors as a resource for reporting and resolving conflicts.

- Students and parents are being encouraged to use the online communication system that allows them to report concerns to school administrators anonymously. This system can be accessed by going to the "Talk About It" box on the Dekaney website.

- Campus administration will work with the Dekaney Parent Academy and community volunteers to increase parental involvement, mentor students and provide positive role models. We will schedule focus groups for parents to attend who are interested in working with us to improve campus culture and climate. If you would like to offer your assistance or be involved, please contact me.

- To provide information and opportunities for questions to be answered or input to be given, parent informational meetings will be held at 5:30 p.m. Monday, May 16 for ninth-grade parents, 7:30 a.m. Tuesday, May 17 for tenth-grade parents, 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 17 for eleventh-grade parents and 7:30 a.m. Wednesday, May 18 for twelfth-grade parents in the Large Group Instructional (LGI) room. If you are unable to attend but would like to talk to me, please contact me at 281-891-7262.

We are pleased to inform you that there have been no further disruptions at Dekaney High School since May 5. I want to assure you that student safety continues to be of the highest priority at Dekaney High School, and we will do whatever it takes to provide a safe, orderly learning environment for your child. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Delic Loyde,
Principal