

Safety and Security at Sage International School

Drills and Trainings

For an idea of what our drills look like and the information they entail, please check out the information from my section in <u>the newsletter from January 13th</u>. Sage conforms to <u>ISCARS</u> (<u>Idaho Standard Command Responses for Schools</u>), an expected practice for all Idaho public schools.

Responding to Threats

When considering a potential threat against Sage or a Sage community member, many factors are considered when pursuing our process to maintain a safe campus.

First, we identify the source of the threat and evaluate it. Most often, threats are reported to staff, who then share the information with administration. Sage administration partners with Boise Police, and an investigation ensues. When a threat is reported to police outside of school hours, police officers share necessary info with school staff, included actions they have taken, since there is a standing partnership. No matter how the threat is shared with staff, the investigation looks to understand who is making the threat, their access to weapons, their history, how specific the threat is, surrounding circumstances and factors, and if it can be contained before school hours, among other factors. If there is doubt about the safety of campus, administration may consider canceling or postponing school, requesting police presence, and/or removing a student from campus, among other responses. Typically, a person involved in a threat to the school or a person who attends the school is removed from campus while the investigation occurs.

Next, Boise Police works with Sage Administration to assess the level of threat to the school and determine if it should affect attendance on campus. Please know that we will share what information we can, as quickly as we can, with Sage Families. We may not be allowed to answer all of your questions. While we strive to be transparent, there are legal limits to what personal information we can share. We understand rumors and reports of potential threats can be stressful and frightening for all of us, but rest assured that the staff and police trained specifically for these circumstances that are working hard to investigate and resolve the situation as quickly as possible. Should you choose to seek more information, please understand that we may not be able to respond to your emails and calls until the situation is resolved, and much of what we will be able to share will be the information already shared here and in the email you will have received. Additionally, calling the school or arriving on campus may disrupt important lines of communication and resources. That said, we support individual parenting decisions regarding your child's attendance during escalated safety concerns. If your student contacts you via phone in the event of an emergency, we encourage

you to help them remain calm and assure them that school staff know what to do in an emergency and to focus on following their directions.

Finally, once it has been determined that there is no immediate threat to students and staff and school has been cleared to continue, members from the Sage Administration team work with police, as necessary, to evaluate the response and assess the needs of the person making the threat. The team follows a formal process to measure the severity of the needs and the depth of the response from the school and police. This information is privileged to the police, the school officials, the student who made the threat, and their guardians.

See Tell Now

Sage is a part of See, Tell, Now, an anonymous tipline funded and staffed by the State. This tipline is staffed by trained technicians in a 24/7 call center who will receive and evaluate all tips. Tips are screened for accuracy, information, and severity before being sent out to the police dispatch or assigned school points of contact, depending on the urgency of the tip. For more information about See, Tell, Now, or to submit a tip, please follow this link.

How can you help?

Report threats as quickly as you can, to the right person. During school hours, report threats to the Dean, Directors, or any school staff. After school hours, report threats to the police. Outside of working school hours, we depend on our partnership with Boise Police to ensure threats receive a timely response.

Reporting a Threat Outside of School Hours

Call the police. If it is imminent or an emergency, dial 911. If no one is in immediate danger, call the non-emergency dispatch at 208-377-6797. After you have made your report to the police, please follow up with an email to the Dean or a Director, sharing what details you know. While the police will begin working and will contact school staff as necessary, we appreciate learning any details you can share with us.

Reporting a Threat During School Hours

Call the school and let the answering staff know that you wish to report a safety concern or threat. They will transfer you to the Dean or a Director. A phone call is the fastest way to report an emergency and initiate a school response. For less urgent situations, you can also directly email the Dean or any of the Directors and staff will reach out to police, as necessary.

Reporting a Threat Anonymously

<u>Use See, Tell, Now!</u> to report a threat anonymously. When possible, we often prefer to hear from you directly in the event we have follow up questions.

Create Time and Space for Police and Staff to Work

Once you have reported a threat, your role is largely over. Please follow up if new information comes to light, but otherwise, please allow the police and staff to follow up on your information appropriately. It is typical that staff cannot share many of the actions they took as a result of your information. Please know that what information staff are allowed to share will likely be communicated in an email to the whole Sage Community instead of an individual email or call. Again, we will prioritize resources, human and otherwise, by first following established safety procedures.

What to do in the event of an actual emergency?

In the event of an actual emergency, do not come to the school until you are asked to do so by Sage staff or the police. Especially with our unique parking lot, we must prioritize so first responders have unhindered access and space to maneuver their vehicles. Please also avoid calling the school during such a time; the school will send communication when it is safe to do so.