

Montgomery Middle School

Montgomery News – Focus on Student Safety and Learning: A Proactive Stance

As per the vision of our school and the mission of Area 3, we are devoted to nurturing learners who are engaged in the ongoing process of growth and reflection to achieve academic excellence in a safe and nurturing environment. Additionally, we seek to collaborate with families and the community to foster individuals who not only actively participate in the community, but be highly productive and contributing citizens in a global society. In order for this to happen, our students living in an urban environment must feel safe and comfortable coming to and from school on a daily basis without the fear of possibly encountering shady individuals or crossing “hot-spots” where illegal activities may take place. We know and understand that social and emotional issues have a direct impact in student academic performance.

In this belief, Montgomery Middle School has partnered with the California Community Relations Service (CCRS), a conflict resolution service of the Attorney General’s Office, to help us develop strategies to provide safe passage for all of our students to and from school; hence, the creation of the Safe Passage Program at the site which meets on the second Thursday of every month. The Program supports local law enforcement agencies in their efforts to provide safe passage for students as they travel to and from school. CCRS brings agency partners to the table, develops agendas and strategies, and assists in the facilitation of meetings. At the monthly Safe Passage meetings, decision-makers representing local law enforcement, schools, and city and county agencies meet to discuss the following:

- *Pinpoint “hot spots” on and around campus,
- *Assess crime and gang activity in the area,
- *Examine student travel patterns,
- *Design deployment strategies,
- *Examine neighborhood service needs that contribute to crime,
- *Coordinate jurisdictional resources.

As the African proverb states, “It takes an entire village to raise a child;” this is the beginning of that effort.