



ALBUQUERQUE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
APS STRONG

Dr. Gabriella Durán Blakey
Superintendent

Anthony Griego
Principal Valley High School

Sept. 5, 2024

Dear Valley High School Families,

I am writing to address a highly concerning incident that unfolded on our campus today. It is with great disappointment that I inform you of the confiscation of a loaded handgun from a student's backpack.

We discovered the firearm while searching the backpack due to an unrelated infraction. To our knowledge, the student found in possession of the gun did not express any intentions of harming himself or others. Nevertheless, I want to be unequivocally clear: the possession of any weapon, particularly a gun, within the confines of our school premises is an egregious and intolerable violation of our rules and regulations. This incident warrants severe consequences for the student involved, up to and including expulsion and prosecution.

I want to acknowledge the swift response of members of the Valley High staff and the Albuquerque Public Schools Police Department for de-escalating the situation and detaining the student involved. Their prompt action helped mitigate the immediate threat. I also want to thank the Albuquerque Police Department for its assistance.

Bringing a firearm to school is unacceptable. It endangers the lives of our students and staff and creates a major disruption of the education environment that is so critical to the success of every student at our school.

It is imperative that all members of our community remain vigilant and report any suspicious activities. Every reported threat, no matter how seemingly insignificant, will be treated with utmost seriousness. We are committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of our students and staff. Rest assured that we will take all necessary measures to maintain a secure environment within our school.

Should you have any concerns or questions, I urge you to contact me directly at 505-345-9021. It is crucial that we work together to address these issues.

Thank you for your understanding, albeit under these unfortunate circumstances. We are committed to the safety and success of our students and staff. Together, we can overcome these challenges and ensure a secure environment for everyone within our school community.

Sincerely,

Anthony Griego, Principal

Valley High School