



RIO RANCHO POLICE DEPARTMENT
STEWART STEELE, CHIEF
500 QUANTUM ROAD
RIO RANCHO, NEW MEXICO 87124



RIO RANCHO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SUE CLEVELAND, SUPERINTENDENT
500 LASER ROAD
RIO RANCHO, NEW MEXICO 87124

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
DATE: February 14, 2019

NEWS RELEASE

Shooting Incident at Cleveland High School

(Rio Rancho, NM) ---

There was an incident involving a student with a handgun this morning before school began at Cleveland High School. The incident happened around 7:00 a.m. The weapon was recovered inside the school. A student suspect was apprehended by officers from the Rio Rancho Police Department and a Sandoval County Sheriff's Deputy shortly thereafter in an arroyo near the school.

We do know that the student fired at least one round (shot) inside the building. There were no injuries. School personnel followed the appropriate procedures and students were relocated to a safe area. Once the Rio Rancho Police Department gave the all-clear, students who drove to campus were allowed to check out with their IDs. Students who did not drive to school were transported to the Santa Ana Star Center for reunification with parents.

Dr. Cleveland stated, "We would like to commend our students and staff at Cleveland High and throughout the Rio Rancho School District for their response to this situation and cooperation with law enforcement. Thank you again to parents for your help and understanding, and especially our local law enforcement agencies for their quick response in helping us keep students safe."

Chief Steele echoed Dr. Cleveland's comments adding, "Our officers responded and did what they have been trained to do. This can happen any day, and it is something that we train for with Rio Rancho Fire Rescue and Rio Rancho Public Schools."



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Gregg Hull, Mayor for the City of Rio Rancho stated, “I am grateful for all the agencies that responded to this incident and for Rio Rancho Public Schools and their staff for working together to keep the students and our community safe,” said Mayor Gregory Hull. “The patience and understanding that students and parents exhibited and the outpouring of support from citizens reaffirms that Rio Rancho is the greatest community in the state.”

School for Cleveland High School is canceled tomorrow and will resume on Tuesday, February 19 following the President’s Day holiday. We do believe that many students will be affected by this incident. We encourage parents to be especially sensitive and prepared to offer support to their child during this time. Administrators have developed a plan to provide support and help students and staff cope with these events when they return to school at CHS. Other schools are also prepared to provide support to students who need it. If parents have any concerns about their child’s reaction to this incident, Rio Rancho Public Schools asks that they contact their school counselors or administrative staff.

Rio Rancho Police Department will work with Rio Rancho Public Schools to continue the investigation into the incident. This is an ongoing investigation that will take time. We recognize that there are many rumors or inaccurate information circulating, and we will do our best to release information as it becomes available. Parents and community members should rest assured that Rio Rancho Public Schools and the Rio Rancho Police Department will continue to do what they can to ensure the safety of all students.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:
ANDREW RODRIGUEZ, CAPTAIN,RRPD
OFFICE: (505) 891-5923
arodriguez@rrnm.gov

Or



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RIO RANCHO, NEW MEXICO 87124

BETHANY PENDERGRASS, CHIEF COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER, RRPS
OFFICE: (505) 962-1252
bethany.pendergrass@rrps.net