



September 5, 2025

Dear Families,

We are writing to provide an update and address the concerns we have received following the serious incident at TMS/HS on September 4, 2025. We deeply appreciate your candid feedback and understand the profound impact this event has had on our school community. The safety and well-being of our students and staff remain our absolute highest priority.

On the morning of September 4, 2025, a challenging situation unfolded in our 8th-grade classroom. During class, a student unexpectedly removed a knife from their person and threatened another student. Our staff responded immediately to de-escalate the situation and were able to do so in under 35 seconds. As the event was unfolding, students in the classroom ran to the main office, and a call to 911 was made. Law enforcement arrived on the scene after the threat had been contained, and due to the nature of the event, a decision was made to lock the school down while further investigation was being done. The student responsible for the incident was taken into police custody, and the scene was secured. Communication efforts then followed this critical first step.

We understand that there have been significant concerns regarding our communication during this emergency, including the timing of the lockdown. The immediate priority of our staff is to first ensure the physical safety of all students and staff in all situations. We acknowledge that there were delays in parent notifications and that our primary communication channel, EduRooms, did not reach all families effectively. We did not send an all-call/text to parents about the incident through Infinite Campus Messenger, as is our emergency communication protocol. We will follow this protocol in the future.

We recognize the emotional toll this event has taken on many students and staff. To provide support, a school counselor will be available at the school starting this Monday, September 8, 2025, for anyone who needs emotional support. Regarding questions about prior incidents or student conduct, please understand that due to student privacy laws (FERPA) and the ongoing nature of police investigations involving juveniles, specific details must remain confidential. We urge our community to refrain from spreading or listening to rumors.

To further address your concerns, we invite all parents/guardians to the school this Monday, September 8, 2025. This will be an opportunity to hear directly from me, district leadership, and representatives from the Nye County Sheriff's office. We will offer two sessions to accommodate varying schedules: 7:30 AM and 6:30 PM in the high school library.

We are dedicated to fostering a safe and supportive learning environment for all. We appreciate your understanding and continued partnership as we work through this situation.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Melinda Jeffrey'.

Melinda Jeffrey
Principal
Tonopah Schools