

Group Norms

- Only one person will speak at a time.
- We will allow the person speaking to finish without interrupting.
- We will give our source of information when sharing facts. Otherwise, we will clearly state that we are sharing our opinion or our feeling.
- We will only talk about what we know to be true and not what we've "heard".
- We will only speak for ourselves.

Talking Points

- We are having this conversation because some middle school students were worried about security due to recent events.
- The goal of today's conversation is to give students a safe place to talk about their feelings and to share some information about what ISD is doing to keep our community safe.
- When world events occur, we often go to the media to gather facts. Remember to make sure you are getting facts from reliable news sources and to make sure you are reading recent reports.
- Monitor the amount of time and energy you spend on media and talking about the recent events. Too much focus and attention can cause undue anxiety or fear. Instead we need to work for peace in our communities and around the world.
- Remember we are all in this together. All ethnicities are hurt by terrorism and other senseless violence and we need to support each other.
- At times, people make jokes to normalize things that make them uncomfortable. Do not joke about security now. Some people are anxious and joking can increase their fears needlessly.
- Remember you are safe.
- There are trustworthy people in charge who are working hard to keep you safe. ISD has increased the number of security personnel, put in more secure gates, added a new guard house, improved the security badge system, and created new security drills for students and staff among many other improvements.
- ISD will continue to make improvements and to practice our security drills. In fact, we will be practicing them again just after spring break.
- It is important that you have a chance to ask questions or to talk about your feelings. I'll open up the floor. If you would like to speak, just raise your hand.

Closure

- We have continuously upgraded our security all year long and will continue to do so.
- US Embassy is legally obligated to inform its citizens of any threats. The ISD Director and the US Embassy Regional Security Officer are in close communication. They spoke as recently as yesterday.
- ISD has always and will continue to follow all security recommendations from the US Embassy.
- Remember that international schools have not been targeted, and there have been no threats to ISD.
- (If time allows, you can end the session by talking about ways to build peace within a community. Examples might include partaking in the World Cultural Month activities where we celebrate the variety of cultures represented at ISD, making sure we acknowledge that groups of people should not be judged by the actions of a few, treat all people with fairness, respect, and dignity, etc.)