



Oakland Unified School District

OUSD Superintendent posted in Oakland Unified School District

Please Speak With Your Students About Resolving Conflict Peacefully



**OAKLAND UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT**
Community Schools, Thriving Student

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Monday, August 28, 2023

Dear Oakland Unified Families,

Like many of you, I learned of the incident at the Bay Street shopping center in Emeryville yesterday and was upset and disappointed. It was a disturbance that involved 300-400 young people. We later learned that the incident involved a large number of our students. There is a report that a social media post encouraged kids to go to Bay Street as a “link up.” We informed school administrators of the incident and asked them to ensure that campus adults were more visible today. We also sent central office staff to secondary schools to serve as additional eyes and ears on campus.

Now, I am writing to you to ask that all parents and caregivers be vigilant and aware of their child’s activity on social media, and aware of the activities they are participating in when you are not present. The incident yesterday resulted in multiple fights and one person being stabbed.

Please talk with your students about resolving conflict peacefully, managing their emotions so that they don't let anger take control of their behavior, using social media responsibly, and not following the crowd when there could be trouble brewing. No student should be involved in an incident like the one at Bay Street, in school or anywhere else. As a community, we must make it clear to our young people that violence is never the answer, and it will only lead to problems for all involved - and oftentimes for innocent bystanders.

In an effort to keep our students and schools safe, I also ask that you please reach out to your school administrators to share any information you may receive regarding this weekend's incident or anything related. OUSD leaders are working with the city's Department of Violence Prevention to make sure we can get ahead of any possible safety threats from this incident. We can respond accordingly and support our students to address conflict if we have the information necessary to intervene.

Thank you for supporting education and safety among our students in OUSD and in the community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kyla Johnson-Trammell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with large, elegant loops.

Dr. Kyla Johnson-Trammell
Superintendent
