

## Daily Updates on Threat at School

Rio Americano Community: 10/24/14 1:30 PM

I believe this has been one of the most tumultuous weeks in my entire educational career, but I am so proud of how students, staff, and parents have handled themselves the entire time. Today we had an actual event that was off campus and the safety procedures that we have in place worked exactly how they were supposed to work.

I do want you to know that the events of today had nothing to do with Rio at all. Earlier today I heard sirens around the area and tried to determine what was happening. It was around 11:00 AM that I became aware of the shooting of a police officer near Arden Way. At that time, without any police notification, I felt it was appropriate, based on our current situation, that we go into a shelter in place for precautionary measures. As lunch approached, we received a call from from our district notifying us that the police wanted us to go into a shelter in place. Since we were already in one, there was a simple announcement made to remain in the shelter in place until further notification. At 12:23 PM we were notified by the district that the police lifted the shelter in place and we could continue on with our day, and if any further action was necessary we would be notified. Students then went to lunch and at the end of lunch we proceeded on with classes for the remainder of the day.

During our shelter in place and lunch, our PTSA, went around to classrooms to deliver the doughnuts that they had planned to deliver during lunch. It was a much welcomed treat for our students this week.

With all of the events this week I wanted to provide you with the district parent brochure that describes safety procedures that can happen on a campus. [San Juan Safe Schools](#)

Brian T. Ginter  
Principal RAHS

Rio Americano Community: 10/24/14 10:35 AM

On behalf of the Rio Americano staff, I want to thank the parents who brought in refreshments for the staff and put up balloons and banners to promote a positive atmosphere on Rio's campus this morning. There is a much more normal feel to school today.

In keeping with the updates, the school has completed its preliminary investigation into an incident between a staff member and student last week. I know many of you are aware that the staff member involved has been off campus since last Friday. Based on the information gathered about the incident,

the staff member will return to work on Monday.

This week has been challenging for our entire community. I am proud that we have all rallied as Raiders to keep our students and staff members safe and focused on learning. Thank you for your continued efforts to help our community move forward together.

Brian T. Ginter  
Principal RAHS  
EndFragment

Rio Americano Community: 10/23/14 1:45 PM

First off, I want to thank students, parents, and staff for helping the school keep focused on education and safety throughout the week. On campus we had extra police presence, officials from the district (including Superintendent Kent Kern), and extra parents, and we reported to you via mass email directing you to updates on the Principal's Message site on our webpage. The Sacramento County Sheriff's Department and the FBI continue to investigate this situation and are following leads.

As we move forward and let law enforcement officials do their jobs, we need to help our students return to normalcy on campus. I am happy to tell you that is beginning to happen. Our attendance is back to a normal rate after a slight dip Tuesday and Wednesday. Students continue to unwind during lunch with frisbee, basketball, and other games they normally engage in, as well as talking with friends. If your child is experiencing difficulties, the counselors are available to them; students just need to stop by to see them or set up a specific time to talk. During lunch on Friday, our band will try to end the week on a positive note with a concert for students during lunch, and parents are planning some positive Rio promotions throughout the day. [if gte mso 9]><xml> </xml><![endif] [if gte mso 9]><xml> Normal 0 false false false EN-US JA X-NONE </xml><![endif][if gte mso 9]><xml> </xml><![endif] [if gte mso 10]> <![endif] StartFragmentAs a kickoff to tomorrow, we would like to see parents and students show support at our athletic events after school today. Those events are varsity soccer, junior varsity soccer, and freshmen football.EndFragment

We do know the recent events are unsettling, and we again want to extend our gratitude to all of you who have worked with us to keep the school a safe place for students and staff members. You have all chosen Rio Americano for its many fine programs and we are now focused on putting those programs back in the spotlight again.

Brian T. Ginter  
Principal RAHS

Rio Community: 10/22/14 12:20 PM

I wanted to let everybody know that we had a fire alarm go off at lunch today. The alarm happened in a staff lunch room and was the result of a burnt lunch. This was unfortunate, but our students and staff handled the situation well, by following fire drill procedures, and we were back to a normal lunch in 10 minutes.

Rio Community: 10/22/14 - 8:40 AM

This morning started with students arriving to school and getting to class in a timely fashion. Absences are higher than normal, but that was expected today. We have had some calls from parents that think we are on a lockdown, but that is not the case. We are moving through today as we did on Monday and Tuesday with officers present. We will continue this pattern through this week.

Rio Community: 10/21/14 - 11:30 AM

Although we are not at liberty to discuss all details of the investigation, below is a summary of information being released publicly by the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department:

Rio Americano and San Juan Unified officials contacted the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department on Friday after graffiti was discovered in a campus bathroom indicating there would be a shooting on campus Wednesday, Oct. 22. Later, an additional note was discovered in the same location indicating the date of the threatened shooting had been changed to today, Tuesday, Oct. 21. The Sheriff's Department began an investigation into the threat and, according to standard procedure for threats of this nature, notified the Regional Terrorism Threat Assessment Center, run by the Department of Homeland Security. As a result, the FBI is assisting in the investigation.

Two Safe Schools officers on campus today and tomorrow, along with school officials, will be looking for and reporting any suspicious activity on campus, and our school community is asked to do the same. Suspicious activity can be reported to the Sheriff's Department dispatch at (916) 874-5115 and any life-threatening situation should be immediately reported to 911.

Brian T. Ginter  
Principal RAHS

Rio Community: 10/21/14 - 9:30 AM

I want to update all of you as to where we are at with the threat incident on campus. A question came to me this morning about the threat assessment and what goes into making a determination that a threat is credible or not credible. Highly trained and qualified officers in this area do interviews around the threat, assess the situation, do background checks, and searches if necessary. After their process is done a determination is made and acted upon.

For us, whether the officers determine the threat is credible or not, we move forward as if it were and take precautions necessary to ensure student and staff safety. In this case we have extra officers on campus throughout the day,

additional district staff on campus and our adults are making themselves more visible.

Threats of this nature are crimes whether credible or not. We continue to support the investigation being conducted by Sacramento County Sheriffs with FBI assistance so those responsible can be held accountable for disrupting the school environment. We will continue to take this incident seriously and work to get our school environment back to normal.

Brian T. Ginter  
Principal RAHS

Rio Community: 10/20/14

I wanted to update you on the threat that was made Friday toward the Rio Americano HS. Safe Schools has done a threat assessment on this situation and feels there is no evidence that it is a credible threat. With that being said, we are still taking it seriously and have extra police presence on campus all this week. Police presence does not mean something bad has happened, it is just a precaution.

Part of the concern we have is all of the talk on social media that is creating extra concern from parents and students. Please monitor what is being posted on any sites you have control over so this does not cause extra stress.

Brian T. Ginter  
Principal RAHS

[October 17 Incidents Update](#)

[Weekly Bulletin](#)

**Week at a Glance:** Week of October 20, 2014 is a block week.

**Monday:** Regular day all periods meet. Extra Presence of Officers on campus because of threat made Friday the 17th.

**Tuesday:** Block day periods 1, 3, 5 meet. Extended Leadership Meeting in the Office Conference Room at 3:00 PM. Extra Presence of Officers on campus because of threat made Friday the 17th.

**Wednesday:** Block day periods 2, 4, 6 meet. Extra Presence of Officers on

campus because of threat made Friday the 17th.

**Thursday:** 1:35 dismissal all periods meet, Collaboration - Extra Presence of Officers on campus because of threat made Friday the 17th.

**Friday:** Regular day all periods meet. Extra Presence of Officers on campus because of threat made Friday the 17th.