

November 3, 2021

Rim Families,

The Rim of the World Unified School District desires to enhance student learning by providing an orderly, caring and nurturing educational and social environment in which all students can feel safe and take pride in their school and their achievements.

Personal involvement through a partnership with the school is the most effective means of collaborative improvement. However, this must begin with communication. Administration and staff must be made aware of potential incidents through in-person meetings, phone calls, or emails. We ask that parents approach our faculty in a civil way to demonstrate the behaviors we expect from our students.

Various social media posts have focused on alleged bullying at Mary Putnam Henck Intermediate School. However, there are minimal direct reports of these issues to school administration, counseling, or staff. It is noted that many of the posts identify incidents that have been addressed. One such incident occurred more than three years ago which was specifically investigated and resolved by the school district and law enforcement. Others discuss situations that occurred twenty years ago.

On October 20, 2021, at 5:00 p.m., Mary Putnam Henck Intermediate School hosted a parent night to specifically address reports of bullying in the school. The purpose was administration and staff to collaborate with parents and the community to develop prevention and intervention strategies. Unfortunately, only two parents showed. With the number of people sharing their views on social media, it was expected that more concerned community members would have participated.

The school has also conducted behavior expectation assemblies presented by law enforcement and administration, focused on positive behavior interventions and support (PBIS), anti-bullying/bullying free month, restorative justice programs, and more. Additional information can be found at: <https://www.rimsd.k12.ca.us/Domain/9>.

It is also important to understand that per California privacy laws, certain information cannot be shared with others. Further, schools are required to follow the California Education Code. A section of the Education Code requires that schools implement "other means of correction" before suspending a student for certain violations. Because of these two guidelines, parents may feel as if nothing is being done. Administration and staff do address concerns they are made aware of but cannot share the results with others.

Again, we encourage your active participation with the school and appreciate your understanding as student safety is of the utmost importance.