Welcome back to school for the 2018/19 school year! As we begin a new academic year in the greatest school district around, I wanted to say hello and offer some friendly reminders to staff, students, and parents of the LOSD community. Considering what our Superintendent Mike Musick addressed at an all LOSD staff meeting, a reinvigorated emphasis on inclusivity, equality, and unity is an excellent way to start off on the right path towards excellence and success. In order to meet and exceed expectations of “One Lake, One Love,” there are a few things I would like to encourage all staff, students, and parents to be thoughtful of.

1. **Say Hello**: Inclusivity and unity cannot be achieved without courtesy and kindness. We can all learn from our youngest students (kindergartners) and how they interact with their peers and adults. A smile and a simple hello will almost always go a long way with anyone.

2. **Be You**: Students should not have to feel like they have to say, do, or behave in any other way than who they are. Parents and staff can advocate for genuine student behavior by actively participating in our students’ lives in and out of school.

3. **Say Something**: Communication seems so simple, but it is one of the most challenging parts of humanity. If anyone, especially students, see or hear something that is concerning (bullying, fighting, emotional distress, illegal activity, academic decline, abnormal behaviors, suicidal indicators, violent tendencies, etc.) please do not hesitate to say something to a trusted adult. Remember we have a phenomenal staff at each of our schools that are more than willing to help each of our students not just in the academic arena but in all aspects of life. Additionally, do not forget about SafeOregon ([www.safeoregon.com](http://www.safeoregon.com)) for reporting (named or anonymous) any issues regarding safety threats or potential acts of violence involving any of our students or schools. Saying something can affect change, brighten someone’s day, and/or save a life!

4. **Be Responsible**: I’ve been saying the following statement to students since my tenure as the SRO started, “Think about what you say and do before you say and do it.” Whether the choice is how we treat others, how we use our cell phones or other electronic devices, how much effort we put into our studies, or simply getting to school on time; if we can all consider how our words and actions can affect not only our own lives but the lives of those around us then we will most often make the best choices.

5. **Have Fun**: Make this school year the most fun school year you have ever had. If you are having fun and staying positive, you will invite and infect so many around you to do the same. Extend your fun from your personal time with friends to time with family and making everything about school exciting and purposeful.

I look forward to seeing everyone throughout the school year and being a positive part of all your successes. Stay tuned for more important messages about school safety and other topics in my future SRO Corner entries. Have a great year!

Bryan Sheldon, School Resource Officer
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