

# TROY HIGH SCHOOL

*A 21<sup>ST</sup> Century National Blue Ribbon High School*

*A National New American High School*

*A California Distinguished High School*

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WILLIAM V. MYNSTER, Ph.D., PRINCIPAL

V. SCOTT SCAMBRAY, Ed. D., SUPERINTENDENT

## **Notification Letter for Contraband Detection Dogs 2020/21**

Dear Parents, Students, and Staff Members of Troy High School,

This letter is sent to all parents, students, and staff members to notify everyone that the District has renewed the contract to utilize the services of “Contraband Detection Dogs or Drug-sniffing Dogs” at the campuses of all schools within the District, beginning February 1, 2019. The Board of Trustees is fully committed to promoting a safe learning environment and, to the extent possible, eliminating the possession and use of weapons, illegal drugs, and other controlled substances by students on school premises and at school activities.

California Education Code 49050, District Board Policy (BP) and Administrative Regulation (AR) 5805.1 provide for the authorization of searches to protect the health and welfare of students and staff; such that, school officials may search students, their property (backpacks), and/or District property under their control and may seize illegal, unsafe, or otherwise prohibited items.

In an effort to keep the schools free of dangerous contraband, the District will continue the use of specially trained, non-aggressive dogs to sniff out and alert staff members to the presence of substances prohibited by law or BP/AR. A school administrator will accompany the handler and dog during all searches. Students will be instructed to leave their backpacks and personal belongings in the classroom and the classroom teacher will escort students outside of the classroom. The administrator, handler, and dog will enter the empty classroom to conduct the search. The dogs may sniff the air around lockers, desks, and backpacks, or vehicles on District property or at District-sponsored events. Dogs will not sniff within close proximity of students or other persons. The District and site administration has sought out this service as a deterrent to the unfortunate increase in vapes and marijuana products on school campuses.

The Principal or designee will conduct a general inspection of school properties that are within the control of students, such as lockers, desks, and backpacks, on a regular, unannounced basis, with students standing outside the classroom. Any items contained in a locker, desk, or backpack shall be considered to be the property of the student to whom the locker or desk was assigned. Student cars may also be inspected by the contraband detection dogs. The dogs can sniff marijuana, hashish, cocaine, crack, heroin, commonly abused medications (Xanax), alcoholic beverages, and any gunpowder items or firearms.

Whether trace amounts of contraband or significant amounts of contraband items are detected, appropriate consequences will be determined by site administration in accordance within District disciplinary policies.

Parents are welcome to contact Troy’s administration should there be questions about how the contraband detection dogs will be utilized on the Troy High School campus.

Sincerely,

William V. Mynster