

Denver

School of the Arts



**DENVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Office of the Principal**

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Dear DSA Community,

I would like to inform you about an incident that occurred off school property yesterday afternoon. A group of DSA high school students went to the King Soopers store at Stapleton after-school. While in the parking lot they were approached by a male who brandished a weapon, and one student was hit in the face. This is certainly a terrifying experience for our student and for all of our school community. We are extremely proud of our students as they immediately returned to the school and reported the incident to administration. Administration immediately called Denver police and DPS Safety and Security, and officers quickly responded. The suspect was apprehended due to the quick action of our students.

I want to again remind all students and parents about safety awareness when off school grounds. Safety is a top priority in Denver Public Schools and at the Denver School of the Arts. Please be assured that our staff will continue our vigilance throughout each day to ensure the safety of your child. I encourage you to take this chance to talk with your child about contacting an adult immediately if they ever feel unsafe, confirming after-school arrangements together and ensuring your child understands the importance of dialing 911 if he or she ever feels unsafe.

Here are additional safety tips:

- Teach your children to use the buddy system.
- Know where they are at all times. Establish good communication with children to ensure they readily will report to you any unusual occurrences.
- If they are approached by strangers, they should take several steps backward, stay out of arm's reach and run to a safe area. If they are confronted, they should be taught to scream. Many times children forget to scream.
- Make sure children learn to identify safe people such as policemen and firemen. Show them where safe homes or buildings are in the neighborhood in case they need to run to them. Identify which neighbors are available to help when you are not at home. In an emergency situation, children should run to the nearest house for assistance. They should avoid alleys and empty lots, houses or garages.
- Parents should notify both the school and the police if an incident occurs anywhere or anytime.

As always, feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. Thank you for your support in keeping our students safe.

Sincerely,

William Kohut  
Principal