



MARIN COUNTY

OFFICE OF EDUCATION

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February, 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians of Marin County Students:

Gun injuries occur all too frequently in our society. Every 30 minutes a child or teen dies or is injured from a gun. On average, 53 people die by suicide using guns every day. Unfortunately, American gun violence has become a national health crisis.

Very often child-related gun incidents occur when the child has obtained the weapon from his/her home. The schools and law-enforcement agencies of our community are committed to creating a safe environment for our students. We are pleased to share this information to help educate our families about gun safety. We want to raise awareness and stop these tragedies before they happen by following the guidelines below:

- **Store guns safely** (locked in a safe and not loaded);
- **Ask** about the presence of unsecured guns in other homes (play dates, neighbors); and
- **Recognize** the risk factors and warning signs of suicide and depression and speak up.

Risks associated with having a gun in the home:

- **Risks to your Family:** Studies have shown that a gun in your home is 22 times more likely to be used in a homicide, suicide, or accidental death than in a justified self-defense.
- **Increased Risk of Domestic Violence:** A domestic dispute is 5 times more likely to result in a death if there is a gun in the home.
- **Increased Risk of Accidental Gun Death:** It is 4 times more likely that someone will die from an accidental gun death in your home when a gun is present.
- **Community Safety:** An estimated 500,000 guns are stolen from homes in America each year, which poses a significant public safety risk.

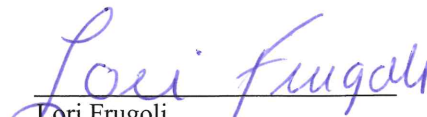
Your legal responsibilities as a gun owner:

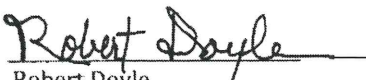
Parents and legal guardians are legally responsible for protecting children by adhering to the safe storage of firearms guidelines under California Law AB 231, which makes someone criminally liable if they store a loaded firearm where a child is likely to gain access to it. Guidelines for gun safety can be found at the [Marin County Office of Education Safe Schools website](#).

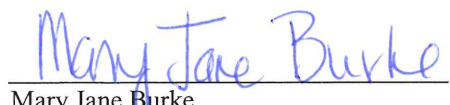
Gun Safety Parent Pledge:

Please take the [Gun Safety Pledge](#) to always practice safe gun storage and prevent unsupervised access to guns at all times.

Together we can make sure our schools and communities are violence-free. If you have a firearm, thank you for ensuring that it is safely and securely stored.


Lori Frugoli
Marin County District Attorney


Robert Doyle
Marin County Sheriff


Mary Jane Burke
Marin County Superintendent of Schools