

MEDIA RELATIONS: SCHOOL VISITATIONS

The news media represents public interests in reporting information concerning the Midway School District (District). It is, therefore, in the interests of both the education community and the citizen-taxpayers of the District that there is open communication with the news media.

All representatives of the media shall be given equal access to information about the schools. There shall be no exclusive releases.

Media Liaisons

The Superintendent will be the District liaison with the public news media. All contacts and releases concerning the District policies and regulations, matter of district-wide interest, or potentially controversial topics will be handled or cleared by the Superintendent or designee.

Except as otherwise stipulated in policy, Principals will be the primary contacts for their schools. They will make available information about the school, its program, and operations, except as prohibited by Board policies, administrative regulations, or federal or state laws. If Principals have questions about releasing information, they will contact the Superintendent. Principals will inform the Superintendent about media requests.

Privacy

While the District may have regulations governing and limiting media access to schools, information and images obtained by the media about/of regular education students are outside of the District's ability to control and do not require parental permission to broadcast or print. Parents who do not want their student interviewed or photographed by the media shall direct their student accordingly. This portion of policy does not apply to special education students. The District shall obtain parental consent before granting the media access to special education students.

Staff-Media Relations

When authorized by the Superintendent or building Principal, staff members may respond in their official capacity to questions from the news media. The District requests that staff only respond to questions that are within the scope of their jobs and requires that staff, serving in their official capacity, respond with sound judgment, only to the extent that they possess accurate information, and that responses be in keeping with the District's mission.

Release of confidential information and/or speech that is knowingly false/inaccurate, made with reckless disregard for the truth, or that causes or

leads to substantial disruption of the educational environment may be grounds for disciplinary action in accordance with District policy and state law.