

Radio Communications Update

June 17, 2019

Safety Update – Radio Communications

- During the 2018-2019 school year 240 HYT 2 watt radios were purchased for staff in each building for the purpose of providing all certified staff with reliable communication in an emergency
- This spring the Idaho Department of School Safety donated 2 retired Idaho State Police repeaters to the MCSD to allow us to have radio coverage throughout the district between buildings and with transportation
- Radio coverage has been limited to in, and immediately surrounding, the building
- We will be purchasing new radios for the transportation department that will include one for every bus and several for the transportation maintenance staff and their office.
- Administrative radios will be upgraded to Kenwood 5 watt radios and their current 2 watt radios will be redistributed to other non-certified staff (5 watt radios will have better capabilities with the repeaters when talking to other schools across the District)
- By the end of the summer, all schools and the transportation department will be well-equipped to communicate in an emergency. This includes all teachers and para-professionals, custodians, kitchens, secretaries and administrators and district staff, to which additional training will be provided to communicate the importance and proper use of the radios
- The Safety Coordinators have developed a [Communication Plan](#) that will be included in the Administrators Handbook and has been condensed to bullet points for parents for inclusion in Student Handbooks ([Communication Plan for Parents](#))
- **Bonus:** cost of installation for the transportation repeater and the purchase of bus radios is 80% reimbursable by the State. In addition, having our own repeaters will result in a cost savings of \$700 per month (the current transportation repeater rental is currently \$900/month, whereas the cost of rental space on Mt. Harrison for two of our own repeaters will be only \$200/month.
- **Thank you for your support.** Moving our district in the direction of improving the response capabilities of our staff in an emergency situation is a positive move.