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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CVUSD will host its annual Suicide Prevention Awareness Forum of the 2024-2025 school year
Attendees are invited to join an expert facilitator to discuss methods on how to recognize warning signs of suicide and what immediate actions can be taken to keep our youth safe.

Chino, CA – On Tuesday, September 24, 2024, parents, guardians, and community members will have the opportunity to attend the annual Suicide Prevention Awareness Forum hosted by the Chino Valley Unified School District (CVUSD). The forum will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Chino Hills High School multipurpose room, located at 16150 Pomona Rincon Rd. in Chino Hills. To encourage parent and guardian participation, free childcare and Spanish interpretation will be provided.

Dianne Vargas, the forum facilitator, holds a Doctorate in Education Leadership with an Administrative Credential, and is an Assistant Professor of School Counseling at the California State University, Stanislaus in Turlock, California. With an expertise in Education Law and Ethics, Dr. Vargas is an active trainer and consultant contracted by county offices of education and districts throughout the state, offering training in the areas of suicide procedures and policy, non-suicidal self-injury, anxiety, depression, conflict and de-escalation, and other mental health topics.

In addition to facilitating the Suicide Prevention training for parents, guardians, and community members in the evening, Dr. Vargas rotates among CVUSD campuses to provide training to staff and first responders. This group includes site administrators, nurses, psychologists, MTSS-B counselors, Intervention counselors, and any additional staff involved in screening students identified for suicide risk. During school site trainings, participating staff develop an awareness of risk factors, build an understanding for postvention activities – such as re-entry meetings, safety plans, referral services -, and improve their knowledge and skills in suicide prevention.

To support students experiencing depression, social isolation, or need assistance coping with a suicidal crisis or emotional distress, the District has provided resources through its online *One-Stop-Shop* that can be accessed 24/7/365 by visiting <https://www.chino.k12.ca.us/Page/51648>. A copy of Dr. Vargas's presentation will also be displayed for participants unable to attend the September 24th event.

About Chino Valley Unified School District:

Founded in 1860, Chino Valley Unified School District serves approximately 26,000 students across 36 schools within the Chino Valley and South Ontario areas. Home to 18 California Distinguished schools, students receive a rigorous, 21st century education in preparation for college and career. Thriving performing arts and athletic programs, nationally recognized marching bands and engaging parent-school partnerships distinguish Chino Valley Unified School District as one of the best school districts in California. For more information about Chino Valley Unified School district, please visit www.chino.k12.ca.us.

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