November 2019

Message from Superintendent Dr. Ben Drati:
New Visitor Management System

Dear parents and guardians,

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District is pleased to announce that we have begun using the Raptor Visitor Management System in our schools to strengthen our program of campus safety for students and faculty. Part of keeping students and faculty safe is knowing who is in our buildings at all times, and the Raptor system allows us to do that. The Raptor system will better allow us to screen visitors, contractors, and volunteers in our schools and provide us with a safer environment for our students and staff.

Upon entering a district building, visitors will be asked to present an identification such as a driver's license or US Passport, which can either be scanned or manually entered into the system. If a parent or guardian for any reason does not have a US government-issued ID, the school staff member can use any form of identification and manually enter the person's name into the Raptor system. The Raptor system will check to ensure that registered sexual offenders are not entering our school campuses without our knowledge. The Raptor system checks the visitor's name and date of birth for comparison with a national database of registered sex offenders. The registered sex offender database is the only official database checked by the Raptor system. No other data from the ID is gathered or recorded and the information is not shared with any outside agency. Once entry is approved, Raptor will issue a badge that identifies the visitor, the date, and the purpose of his/her visit. A visitor's badge will not be necessary for those who visit our schools simply to drop off an item in the office or pick up paperwork.

The safety of our students is our highest priority and the Raptor visitor management system allows us to quickly identify those that may present a danger to our students. Thank you in advance for your understanding and your support in enhancing the school safety protocols in our district. Please see our answers to Frequently Asked Questions.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ben Drati
Superintendent

SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
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Raptor Visitor Management System - Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Raptor System?

Raptor is a visitor management system that enhances school security by scanning a visitor's drivers' license (or other approved government issued ID), comparing information against a sex offender database, and alerting school administrators if a match is found. Once cleared through the system, a visitor badge is produced that includes a photo, name of the visitor, date & time, and destination. The Raptor system is designed to replace paper sign in.

How does Raptor work?

Raptor compares government-issued ID information to a database that contains registered sex offenders from 50 states as well as internal alerts placed by a school site. In the event of a match, Raptor notifies designated school officials.

What is the purpose of the Raptor system?

Raptor enhances visitor management. By proactively alerting personnel to certain potential threats, Raptor allows school administrators to take appropriate steps to keep our students, employees, and visitors safe. For approved visitors, the system prints visitor badges that include the visitor's name, photo, date, and destination. Those badges enable personnel on campus to quickly determine if visitors are in areas where they should, or should not be.

Why is the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District using this system?

The safety of our students and staff is our highest priority. Raptor provides a significant improvement in visitor identification and verification then was afforded by the past sign-procedures. The system has proven to be reliable, easy to use, and flexible for special circumstances.

Does the school/District have the right to require visitors, even parents, to produce identification before entering the school?

Yes. In accordance with California Penal Code 627, school officials need to know who is in the building and why they are there; particularly when a student is involved (e.g. early pickup), school officials need to be able to confirm that an individual has the authority to have access to the student.

What types of IDs will work in Raptor?

Raptor is able to scan all U.S. government issued licenses, identification cards, concealed handgun licenses, matricula consular ID cards, permanent resident card, active military cards, and passport ID cards (not the full passport).

What if a parent does not have an ID with them, can they still access the campus?

Parents or the legal guardians of a student that do not have a government-issued ID in their possession will be given entrance to the school by providing their last name, first name, and date of birth. Persons who do not have a government-issued ID will be asked to present any photo ID that they have in their possession as verification of their identity.

What if a parent is undocumented, can they still access the campus?
A parent who is undocumented, but known to the school staff, can still access the campus by providing their name and birthdate. The Board of Education is fully committed to upholding the rights of undocumented students and their parents. No information on immigration or citizen status will be requested. Additional information can be found on the Board's resolution http://www.smmusd.org/board/pdf/Resolution-Immigration.pdf

What information is the school taking from the ID?
Raptor is only scanning the visitor's name, date of birth, last four digits of the license number and photo from their ID card for comparison with a national database of registered sex offenders and any private alerts at the school, such as restraining/ custody orders. Additional personal data will not be gathered and no data will be shared with any outside company or organization. Information about Raptor's privacy and data collect policies can be found at https://raptortech.com/product-faq/

Is an ID card scan necessary each time a person comes in the building?
No. After the first scanning at each campus, the office staff would simply find the visitor's name in the system (first or last name look-up) and use the record of the previously-scanned ID to sign the visitor in and print a visitor's badge. This makes check in much easier after the initial visit. The school receptionist is able to view the ID card picture in Raptor to make a visual verification of the person signing in.

Will volunteers or employees have to be scanned into the Raptor System?
Registered school volunteers and SMMUSD employees with a durable school or District issued ID badge will not need to be processed through the Raptor system. Volunteers who do not have a durable school ID badge will be processed using the Raptor system.

What is the checkout process for Visitors leaving the building?
The checkout process doesn't involve scanning the card again. The school reception staff would simply find the name of the person who is signing out and click a 'sign out' button. This provides a record of entry and departure and time on any campus. The visitor badge should be returned to the receptionist and destroyed.

What if a 'hit' on the system occurs? What is the protocol?
If there appear to be a match with an individual on the data base the first steps taken would be to confirm the information and rule out a false match. If the visitor is positively identified as a registered sex offender, appropriate measures will be taken to limit that person's contact with students.

Will Raptor be used for large school events that are open to the public?
Generally, the system should be used during normal school hours, Monday through Friday. At the discretion of the site administrator, the Raptor system may not be used if creates excessive delay.

Will I be required to complete this process if I am simply dropping off an item in the office for my child?
No, this process is only for persons wishing to enter the campus past the reception desk.

All parents have a right to participate in their child's education. If you have additional questions about the Raptor system, please contact your school's administrator. For more information on the Raptor Visitor Management System please visit www.raptortech.com.