

Dear Liberty families,

The safety and welfare of our students and staff is our highest priority in Danville School District 118. To maintain a safe environment for children to learn, it is necessary that we practice emergency and crisis response plans through drills designed to practice procedures. These practice drills allow us to evaluate our emergency operation plans and prepare for the unexpected.

On Friday, September 5th, we will be conducting , a soft and hard lockdown, and a storm drill. Drills are required by Public Act 94-0600 and Public Act 98-0048.

***What is a lockdown?***

A lockdown is a precautionary measure in response to a situation inside the school or in the community. In a lockdown:

- All school activities are moved inside.
- Interior and exterior doors are locked.
- No one is allowed to enter or exit the building.
- Parents may not come to the school building during a lockdown.
- Parents are discouraged from calling the school directly. Additional calls hinder the ability of staff to respond to the primary task and receive updated information from the district office.

There are two types of lockdowns in District 118:

- **Soft Lockdown-** a minor situation with no danger to students or staff
  - Something is happening in the community around the school in which the police, fire or ambulance service is involved (i.e. police chase, a fire close by, fumes in the air, animal issue on the property)
  - A stray dog may be in the building and it is not safe for students and staff to be in the hallway
- **Hard Lockdown-** a danger exists in the school or immediate area of the school and presents jeopardy to the safety of students and staff.

***How are school staff prepared to handle a lockdown situation?***

School-based staff are trained in how to recognize and respond to lockdown scenarios. Staff participate in annual drills with the Danville Police Department.

***Why do children have to practice a lockdown drill?***

In emergency situations, we are all more confident, less anxious, and better able to cope when we know there is a plan in place. An essential part of the lockdown drill in our schools is the staff to lead conversations about the experience afterwards to reassure students and help them develop coping and self-calming techniques for the future. Social workers will be available for any student needing additional support.

Please talk with your child, if you deem it appropriate, about the procedures and drills.

As always, the safety of students and staff remains our highest priority. If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child's school.

Mrs. Amber Gouard, Principal