

### **May 15, 2023 at 7:39pm - Lockdown Update #3**

Dear Haldane Community,

Thank you for your support today as our students and staff responded to a lockdown on campus. As shared in my previous communication, our SRO heard noises in close proximity to our campus that could have possibly been a firearm discharging. A lockdown of all students and staff was initiated in accordance with our district emergency response protocols. The lockdown began at approximately 12:15 p.m. and regular school operations resumed at approximately 1:35 p.m. after law enforcement determined that the noises were likely caused by fireworks that were set off in the neighborhood that borders our campus.

I would like to share some additional information with you:

- There is no known connection between this incident and the one that occurred two weeks ago that caused us to delay the opening of school.
- Given the timing of the incident today, students and staff may have had very disparate experiences with the emergency response. Some of our students and staff were already in classroom settings and proceeded to lockdown in accordance with our procedures and their practiced drills. Yet a number of students and staff were outside and had to quickly return to the building or other safe area to seek shelter. While any student may need support in processing today's event, these students may have experienced an increased sense of vulnerability and anxiety.
- Please be sure to check in with your children and contact our school if there is anything you feel we should know or can do to support them. You may also wish to refer to this [resource](#) which can help you guide the conversation in a developmentally appropriate way. Our clinical staff will be checking in with students throughout the day tomorrow.
- Additional law enforcement personnel will be on campus tomorrow to provide support during this period of what may feel like increased vulnerability.

Thank you to the staff and law enforcement officers who were involved in the emergency response. Everyone did what was necessary to take care of our students and each other. And thank you to the parents, who I know were worried about their children, for adhering to our requests to remain away from campus while the situation was being addressed.

Sincerely,

Phil Benante, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

### **May 15, 2023 at 1:33pm - Lockdown Update #2**

Dear Haldane Community:

All students and staff at Haldane are safe. There is no safety or security threat. At approximately 12:15pm, our school SRO heard noises in the area of the campus that could have possibly been a firearm discharging. Out of an abundance of caution, a lockdown of all students and staff in accordance with district emergency management protocols was initiated. The Putnam County Sheriff's Department immediately responded to the scene, conducted an investigation into the incident, and deemed it to be fireworks.

Again, there is no safety or security threat at the school, and all students and staff are safe. Classes have resumed and students will be dismissed on a regular schedule. All after school activities and athletics are canceled.

You will note that additional law enforcement will remain on campus through the remainder of the day. A final update will be provided to families later this evening.

Sincerely,  
Phil Benante, Ed. D.  
Superintendent of Schools

### **May 15, 2023 at 12:43pm - Lockdown Update**

Dear Haldane Community:

In accordance with district emergency management protocols, the Haldane Central School District is currently existing a lockdown. The Putnam County Sheriff's Department is on scene investigating what is believed to be fireworks in the area. Parents are urged not to contact the school or district office so phone lines may remain available for our staff to manage this process.

Please remember that our first priority is always the safety and security of our students and staff. We will continue to provide updates as soon as possible. Please be patient and understand we may be unable to respond as quickly and completely as you may like. There is no need for parents to respond to the school at this time. Please do not go to the school even if your children request you to do so. We understand that this may be your first instinct as a parent, but your presence will interfere with the police and district's response. The campus will be temporarily closed to all vehicular and pedestrian traffic until the lockdown is lifted. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Phil Benante, Ed. D.

Superintendent of Schools

### **May 15, 2023 at 12:35PM - Lockdown In Progress**

Dear Haldane Community:

All students are safe. Haldane Central School District is currently coming out of a lockdown. The campus is currently closed. Additional information will be provided within the hour.