



PARKLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

"Educating For Success, Inspiring Excellence."

Parkland High School

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August 1, 2024

Dear Parkland Parents/Guardians,

Parkland School District's top priority is to ensure that all students learn in a safe and secure school environment. The District has emergency operation plans that are updated annually and reviewed by our District's crisis management team and emergency first responders to ensure our readiness to respond to an emergency or crisis. Parkland School District will continue to work collaboratively with emergency first responders to implement the regulations enacted by the School Safety Act (House Bill 1142) of 2018. The District has implemented an in-house risk and vulnerability program through collaboration with local law enforcement that focuses on physical site security, policy enhancement, and behavioral health programming.

Act 18 of 2019 requires schools to implement threat assessment standards and practices in all public schools. The purpose of this legislation is to create multi-disciplinary teams that will assess and resolve threats of violence towards the school community.

Act 55 of 2022 increased the annual professional development requirements in all public schools. The legislation focuses on both emergency procedures and various other mental health related topics designed to garner a greater level of awareness necessary to support the school community. Annually, our staff and students will regularly practice monthly fire drills, biannual bus evacuation drills, a weather emergency drill, and biannual security-based lockdown drills.

In spring 2018, the school district's administration met with representatives from our community's police, fire, and ambulance departments to review our monthly fire drill procedures. As a team, we decided to change our fire drill response to allow the staff in each building to "evaluate" before we "evacuate" when the fire alarm sounds. Since childhood, most of us have been conditioned to immediately leave the school building when the fire alarm is heard. The unfortunate reality today is that we need to take proactive steps to ensure our school's population are not evacuating into a potentially dangerous setting. Of course, if any staff observes any signs of an active fire (fire, smoke, odor), the staff and students will immediately evacuate the building.

The goal of any protocol is to familiarize students and staff with procedures, so they will feel comfortable, safe, and secure in the event of a real emergency. We recognize that participating in such drills may heighten anxiety for some students, especially those new to the district or even new to a building. To lessen that concern, our staff will discuss the school security drills with students in an age-appropriate context.

Please talk to your child about the importance of being prepared in the event of an emergency. Our aim is to help the students feel comfortable throughout the drill. Please refer to the information at the district website under [Safety and Security](#) to learn more about the procedures in the event of an emergency.

Keeping our students safe and secure is a community effort. We appreciate parent support in working with the school to this end. If you have any specific questions about safety and security, please feel free to contact your child's principal.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anthony M. Naradko".

Anthony M. Naradko, Ed.D.