PARENT UNIVERSITY: SCHOOL SAFETY

September 29, 2025

MONOMOY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Safety Overview

⇨ We start each year with common experiences for drills, evacuations, and training, with participation from public safety teams

⇨ Top priority: Keep students and staff safe

Safety Preparations - Overview

- The MRSD Crisis Team meets regularly - comprised of administrators, counselors, staff, and local public safety officials – to review and improve procedures
- Administrative teams have been conducting evacuation and reunification planning for each building
- The Monomoy Regional School District Emergency Preparedness Manual has been updated
- The CrisisGo app has been implemented for internal emergency communications

Building Logistics

- Exterior school doors are locked except during monitored arrival and dismissal times
- There are cameras at every entrance and in a number of other locations inside and outside of buildings
- Visitors to buildings must be buzzed in using visual and voice identification
- SROs are on site in all buildings throughout the day
- The Fire Departments check smoke detectors and alarm systems regularly
- Regular drills for both fire and violent incident scenarios

School Resource Officers

The MRSD SRO program serves the entire school community, with Officer Charlie Chaprales at CES and MRMS, and Officer Tom Clarke at HES and MRHS. Our SROs are very visible in the schools and therefore develop relationships and connections with students. This allows our SROs to collaborate with counselors and administrators to identify students at risk and preemptively address any concerns.

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Evacuation and Reunification Planning

➢ Building Evacuation Preparations
➢ Run-Hide-Fight Preparations
➢ Reunification Planning

Building Evacuation

- Ensure all staff and students follow the posted classroom-specific school building map identifying where the classroom will normally exit and where the classroom's evacuation assembly areas is located

- Ensure staff understand the need to be flexible in their response during evacuations, particularly if hazards obstruct the posted evacuation route

- In the event of inclement weather, identify where students and staff will move if the school building has to be evacuated, especially if the evacuation would require being away from the school building for an extended period of time

Run-Hide-Fight

Run-Hide-Fight is endorsed by the Department of Homeland Security, the FBI, the Massachusetts Task Force on School Safety and Security, and our local public safety teams. **The emphasis is that flight (Run) is considered the first and best option.**

1. The decision to **Run** will generally be based on a PA announcement explicitly telling all in the building that we are implementing Run-Hide-Fight procedures.

2. If running is not a safe option, staff are trained to help their students **Hide**, locking and barricading the door, shutting off the lights, moving occupants away from windows.

3. Only as a last resort, if run and hide aren't options (ex: the threat is within the classroom), staff have been advised to **Fight** and use whatever "tools" are available to protect their students and themselves.

Reunification

In the event that a serious school building evacuation or Run-Hide-Fight scenario occurs, the school day would end and evacuated students would need to be reunified with their parents/caregivers.

➢ Bus drivers may need to be recalled to facilitate moving students and staff from assembly areas to the designated reunification site. Multiple bus runs may be needed to move an entire school and staff to a reunification site.
➢ Information about reunification will come from the school/district and will be sent out via email/text, phone, and social media when appropriate
➢ Parent/caregiver cooperation and patience will be needed as we account for all students' reunification with their parents/caregivers.

CrisisGo App

MRSD has added the CrisisGo app to our internal communications tools. This app allows administrators, teachers, staff, and first responders to communicate about safety-related issues at any given moment by giving them an easy and clear pathway. It can provide real-time communication about student and staff locations and reunification throughout critical events.

See something, say something

Everyone has a role to play in keeping our schools safe – we encourage students, staff, and parents/caregivers to share any alarming information they may see, hear, or become aware of.

Questions?