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# ROCK SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

307-352-3440



RSHS.SWEETWATER1.ORG



#RISEUPROCKSPRINGS



## Rock Springs High School March 2026



### Principal's Message

I can't believe it's already March! The last couple of months have absolutely flown by, and it's been incredible to see just how much Rock Springs High School continues to accomplish for our students, staff, and community. From activities and events to academics and athletics, there is always something happening, and I'm continually grateful for the energy, commitment, and pride that make it all possible. As we wrap up our winter sports season this week, we're already shifting into spring sports and activities while also looking ahead to next year. We are now looking at schedule building and course request so we can plan to match student interests. Standardized testing season is also here, with WY-ALT beginning this week and WYTOPP and ACT just around the corner. While testing does not define everything we do, it is an important part of our work and plays a significant role in our school's accreditation status. The good news is that our performance data shows we are moving in the right direction, and that progress reflects the hard work of our teachers, staff, administrators, and students every single day as we continue refining our systems and focusing on areas for growth. Thank you, families, for your continued support and partnership...it makes a tremendous difference. I hope everyone enjoys a wonderful and well-deserved spring break, and I look forward to all of the exciting end-of-year activities and celebrations still to come. Go Tigers! 🐅

Mr. Straka, Principal RSHS



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**Main Campus:**  
1375 James Dr., Rock Springs, WY 82901  
Phone: 307-352-3440

**Satellite Campus:**  
3400 Stagecoach Dr., Rock Springs, WY 82901  
Phone: 307-352-3210



Mike Alton 3/5  
Averi Kirkwood 3/6

Caitlin Person 3/8  
Patricia Edman 3/9  
Lynne Wesselman 3/31

We would like to wish our January Birthday Staff the warmest of Birthdays this month! Thank you!

## Class Schedule Information

The close of **Quarter 3** is upon us on **Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup>**. We will begin Quarter 4 right after Spring Break on March 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Report Cards:** Grades and transcripts will be finalized shortly after the end of the quarter. We'll send report cards as soon as everything is ready.

**Student schedules might look a little different on March 30<sup>th</sup>**, please make sure you and your student are aware of their 4<sup>th</sup> quarter schedules starting Monday March 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Schedule Changes:** As a reminder we only consider changes for the specific reasons below. General requests are taken at the start of each semester only during the first 5 school days. After that time, we will no longer honor requests.

Eligible reasons (documentation may be required):

1. Missing prerequisite
2. Graduation requirement
3. Post-secondary requirement (may need catalog/letter)
4. Medical reason (provider note)
5. IEP/Study Committee recommendation
6. Staffing issue (meeting with teacher, student, admin, counselor).



\*In addition, if a student is missing a class period on their schedule, they may come to the counseling center during that open period to have it filled.

## Next Year's Enrollment Information

We have started our schedules for next year. This process really starts at the beginning of each school year as we start to look at enrollment numbers, classes, graduation requirements, etc. We have finalized course requests from students and are in the process of looking into staffing and student needs. While we try to hold all the offerings we can, sometimes we just cannot make a course work. We do try our hardest to give every student the classes they request. Please be understand that our counselors and administration are working hard on these requests. This includes the three Academy schedules for next year. We are working hard to finalize academy lists for our upcoming 10<sup>th</sup> grade students. We should have those out very soon.

# Upcoming Athletics and Activities

3/11/2026	RSHS Speech and Debate @ Central	TBD	Speech and Debate	
3/12/2026	RSHS Speech and Debate @ Central	TBD	Speech and Debate	
3/13/2026	RSHS Speech and Debate @ Central	TBD	Speech and Debate	
3/20/2026	Rock Springs @ Cheyenne or Gillette Tournament	TBA	Softball	Varsity/JV/Varsity
3/20/26	Rock Springs @ Riverton	3/5	Boys Soccer	Varsity/JV
3/20/26	Rock Springs @ Riverton	3/5	Girls Soccer	Varsity/JV
<b>3/20/2026</b>	<b>Rock Springs Quad</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>Track</b>	<b>Varsity</b>
3/21/2026	Rock Springs @ Cheyenne or Gillette Tournament	TBA	Softball	Varsity/JV/Varsity
<b>3/21/2026</b>	<b>Rock Springs vs Evenston</b>	<b>10/12</b>	<b>Boys Soccer</b>	<b>Varsity/ JV</b>
<b>3/21/2026</b>	<b>Rock Springs vs Evenston</b>	<b>10/12</b>	<b>Girls Soccer</b>	<b>Varsity/JV</b>
<b>3/26/2026</b>	<b>Rock Springs vs Star Valley</b>	<b>3/5</b>	<b>Boys Soccer</b>	<b>Varsity/JV</b>
<b>3/26/2026</b>	<b>Rock Springs vs Star Valley</b>	<b>3/5</b>	<b>Girls Soccer</b>	<b>Varsity/JV</b>
3/27/2026	Rock Springs @ Central	2/3:30/5	Softball	Varsity/JV/Varsity
3/28/2026	Rock Springs @ East	10/11:30/1	Softball	Varsity/JV/Varsity
3/31/2026	Rock Springs @ Lyman Track Invite	TBD	Track	Varsity/JV

<b>4/1/2026</b>	<b>Rock Springs vs. Laramie</b>	<b>2/3:30/5</b>	<b>Softball</b>	<b>Varsity/JV/Varsity</b>
<b>4/2/2026</b>	<b>Rock Springs vs. South</b>	<b>2/3:30/5</b>	<b>Softball</b>	<b>Varsity/JV/Varsity</b>
<b>4/2/2026</b>	<b>Rock Springs vs Jackson</b>	<b>3/5</b>	<b>Boys Soccer</b>	<b>Varsity/ JV</b>
<b>4/2/2026</b>	<b>Rock Springs vs Jackson</b>	<b>3/5</b>	<b>Girls Soccer</b>	<b>Varsity/JV</b>
4/10/2026	Rock Springs @ Torrington	2/3:30/5	Softball	Varsity/JV/Varsity
<b>4/10/2025</b>	<b>Rock Springs vs Kelly Walsh</b>	<b>3/5</b>	<b>Boys Soccer</b>	<b>Varsity/JV</b>
<b>4/10/2026</b>	<b>Rock Springs vs Kelly Walsh</b>	<b>3/5</b>	<b>Girls Soccer</b>	<b>Varsity/JV</b>
4/11/2026	Rock Springs @ Big Piney	TBD	Track	JV
<b>4/11/2026</b>	<b>Rock Springs @ Wheatland</b>	<b>10/11:30/1</b>	<b>Softball</b>	<b>Varsity/JV/Varsity</b>
<b>4/11/2026</b>	<b>Rock Springs vs Natrona County</b>	<b>10/12</b>	<b>Boys Soccer</b>	<b>Varsity/JV</b>
<b>4/11/2026</b>	<b>Rock Springs vs Natrona County</b>	<b>10/12</b>	<b>Girls Soccer</b>	<b>Varsity/ JV</b>
<b>4/14/2026</b>	<b>Rock Springs vs Green River</b>	<b>2/3:30/5</b>	<b>Softball</b>	<b>Varsity/JV/Varsity</b>
4/16/2026	Rock Springs @ Jackson	3/5	Boys Soccer	Varsity/JV
4/16/2026	Rock Springs @ Jackson	3/5	Girls Soccer	Varsity/JV
4/17/2026	Rock Springs @ Natrona Invite	TBD	Track	Varsity
<b>4/21/2026</b>	<b>Rock Springs vs Riverton</b>	<b>3/5</b>	<b>Boys Soccer</b>	<b>Varsity/JV</b>
<b>4/21/2026</b>	<b>Rock Springs vs Riverton</b>	<b>3/5</b>	<b>Girls Soccer</b>	<b>Varsity/JV</b>
<b>4/24/2026</b>	<b>Rock Springs Ted Schroeder Invite</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>Track</b>	<b>Varsity/JV</b>
4/24/2026	Rock Springs @ Laramie	4:00/6:00	Softball	Varsity/JV/Varsity
4/24/2026	Rock Springs @ Evenston	3/5	Boys Soccer	Varsity/JV
4/24/2026	Rock Springs @ Evenston	3/5	Girls Soccer	Varsity/JV
4/25/2026	Rock Springs @ South	10/11:30/1	Softball	Varsity/JV/Varsity
4/28/2026	Rock Springs @ Evenston	TBD	Track	Varsity/JV



Need Game Day Gear?  
Order Here!

[The Mascot Shop](#)

[BSN Sideline Store](#)



# Assessment Information

Standardized testing is one of the tools we use to understand how well we are serving students at Rock Springs High School. These tests are not the only measure of student success, but they do provide valuable information about academic achievement, student growth, and readiness for life after high school. They help us celebrate areas of strength, identify gaps, and make adjustments so we can better meet student needs. Our 2024–25 results show that we successfully met participation expectations, which means our data gives us a reliable picture of student performance. The results also remind us that we have important work ahead in areas such as achievement, growth, graduation, and English Learner progress. At the same time, our postsecondary readiness results were in the Average range under ESSA, reflecting encouraging progress in preparing students for college, careers, and military service. Most importantly, this data helps guide our improvement efforts as we remain committed to preparing all students for success in life.

## 24-25 School Performance

Indicator	Accountability Model	Student Count	School Score	Low Cut	High Cut	Performance Category
Achievement	WAEA Traditional High Schools	637	42	48.0	60.0	Below Target
	ESSA	637	40.5	47.7	58.6	Below Average
Growth	WAEA Traditional High Schools	888	43	49.0	60.0	Below Target
	ESSA	597	41.5	47.1	54.5	Below Average
Equity	WAEA Traditional High Schools	191	44	49.0	60.0	Below Target
	ESSA	0	N/A	47.5	56.2	N/A
English Learner Progress	WAEA Traditional High Schools	66	15	19.0	40.0	Below Target
	ESSA	66	14.9	27.7	50.0	Below Average
Graduation	WAEA Traditional High Schools	402	79	85.0	93.0	Below Target
	ESSA	397	79.1	82.3	90.3	Below Average
Postsecondary Readiness	WAEA Traditional High Schools	319	62	67.0	80.0	Below Target
	ESSA	319	62.4	41.8	65.4	Average
Credits Earned	WAEA Traditional High Schools	346	77	88.0	95.0	Below Target

## WY-ALT Testing (9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>)

The Wyoming Alternate Assessment (WY-ALT) is a state-mandated, individualized, online assessment designed for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities in grades 3-10. Aligned with Wyoming Extended Standards (WYES), it measures proficiency in English Language Arts, Math, and Science (grades 4, 8, 10) for students for whom general assessments are not appropriate.

## WYTOPP Testing (9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>)

The federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) reinforces the authority of states to decide which statewide assessments are the most appropriate for its students. Wyoming's state assessment, the Wyoming Test of Proficiency and Progress (WY-TOPP), assesses students on the Wyoming Content and Performance Standards. It is administered online and is a computer-adaptive assessment. This state summative assessment is an end-of-year test that measures how much students have learned during the school year in English language arts (ELA), mathematics, and science.

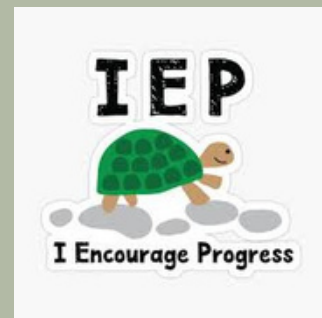
## ACT Testing (11<sup>th</sup> Only)

The ACT measures students' general learning outcomes in English, math, reading, writing, and science. Scores are issued for each subject and may be combined to create composite scores, an English language arts composite score (using the English, reading, and writing scores), or a STEM composite score (using the mathematics and science scores). The ACT is used by many students as a component of their college-entry applications. It may also be a criterion for financial aid and/or scholarship applications. For Wyoming students, entering a Wyoming college or the university, an ACT score is one of the qualifications for the Hathaway Scholarship. A single opportunity is provided for students to take the ACT assessments during the spring semester in grade 11. Students can register for additional administrations of the ACT during national test windows at their own expense. Students on the WY-ALT path are not required to take the ACT.

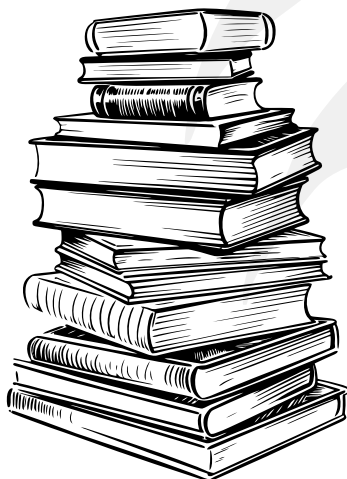
## SPECIAL EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

**OUR TEAM IS WORKING HARD TO SUPPORT OUR STUDENTS EVERY STEP OF THE WAY! WE ARE FOCUSING ON HELPING STUDENTS CATCH UP ON ANY MISSING WORK WHILE PROVIDING THE GUIDANCE AND ENCOURAGEMENT THEY NEED TO CONTINUE GROWING ACADEMICALLY, SOCIALLY, AND EMOTIONALLY. YOUR CHILD'S SUCCESS IS OUR TOP PRIORITY, AND WE'RE DEDICATED TO ENSURING THAT EVERY STUDENT HAS THE TOOLS AND SUPPORT TO THRIVE.**

**"EVERY CHILD DESERVES A CHAMPION –  
AN ADULT WHO WILL NEVER GIVE UP ON THEM."  
-RITA PIERSON.**



# English



THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT IS HARD AT WORK THIS MONTH, CONTINUING WY-TOPP AND ACT PREP WHILE STRENGTHENING READING AND WRITING SKILLS ACROSS GRADE LEVELS. WE'RE ALSO PREPARING FOR PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES AND LOOK FORWARD TO CONNECTING WITH FAMILIES ABOUT STUDENT PROGRESS.



*Art* Staff: David Deporto, Abbie  
Ghowecker, Wrylee  
Padilla, Katelynn  
Padilla, Drew Verkovich

# ART DISPLAY

**ART DEPARTMENT HAS NEW SHOWS IN THE  
DISPLAY CASE AND ON THE LOCKERS BY ROOM  
443.**

**SENIOR MURAL LEAD BY HANNAH BEA IS  
NEAR COMPLETION IN THE SHORT HALL.  
ARTIST'S IN OURT DEPARTMENT ARE WORKING  
HARD PREPARING ARTWORK FOR STATE ART.**



# WORLD LANGUAGE & EL



THE EL DEPARTMENT FINISHED UP THEIR ACCESS TESTING IN FEBRUARY. WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL THE STUDENTS FOR THEIR HARD WORK, PARENTS FOR THEIR HELP AND THE REST OF THE STAFF FOR THE SUPPORT.

IN OUR FRENCH, SPANISH AND WORLD CULTURE CLASSES MARCH MEANS PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES, THE END OF QUARTER #3 AND SPRING BREAK. ALSO CULTURAL LEARNING ABOUT MARDI GRAS AND CARNAVAL. STUDENTS WILL LEARN HOW TO CONJUGATE VERBS.

ROCK SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL



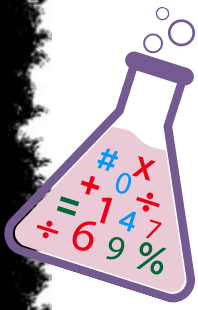
ACADEMY OF PUBLIC SERVICE



**LAST MONTH, WE WRAPPED UP RECRUITMENT AND HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET AND CHAT WITH MANY FRESHMEN STUDENTS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN THE ACADEMY. WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO POSTING LISTS SOON, AND CAN'T WAIT TO MEET ALL OF OUR NEXT APS COHORT! WE ARE HARD AT WORK GETTING STUDENTS READY FOR SPRING TESTING. ALL OF OUR STUDENTS HAVE BEEN HARD AT WORK WITH COMMUNITY SERVICE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES, AND THE JUNIORS AND SENIORS CONTINUE THEIR JOB SHADOW AND MENTORSHIP EXPERIENCES. WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR OUR TIME WITH THESE AMAZING APS STUDENTS!**

# Department Newsletter

## SCIENCE



**Biology:** We have finished learning about the chemistry of life and are now studying the cycling of matter and energy.

**Chemistry:** We will finish quantum theory (electron structures within atoms) and investigate chemical bonding.

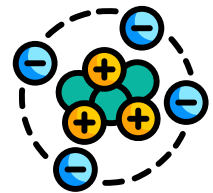
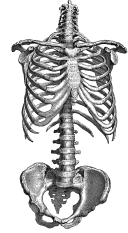
**Physics:** We will investigate two-dimensional motion, with topics such as friction forces and the principles of projectile motion.

**Physical Science:** We are using our understanding of electron patterns on the periodic table to explain simple chemical reactions. Other classes are learning about the different types of chemical bonds and we are finishing up a cartoon project where they have to relate the properties of each visually without writing a definition of each type.

**A&P** is doing our first dissection next week (chicken wing and observing the bones)

**APS Forensics 1** will be completing a crime scene project where they create and process a crime scene using their skills of photography, sketching and collecting, classifying and justifying evidence.

**APS Forensics 2** is finishing the unit on Fire Investigation and will be moving into impressions.



# COUNSELING

## Center

- The counselors and social workers have been busy preparing for the 26-27 school year with registration and course requests.
- We had the opportunity to meet with the incoming class of 2030 and are very excited to welcome the newest class of Tigers to Rock Springs High School!
- We are also preparing to say goodbye to the graduating class of 2026 in a few short months! If you haven't ordered your cap & gown yet, please don't delay! You can place your order at [www.jostens.com](http://www.jostens.com).
- It is that time of year when seniors start to search for scholarships, so don't forget to check our Scholarship Page for opportunities at <https://rshs.sweetwater1.org/student-support/scholarship-information>. New scholarships are added regularly!
- We will begin the dual/concurrent registration process for summer and fall courses in April. Students that are eligible will be encouraged to contact their counselor of record to schedule appointments to discuss options, etc.

**We wish you all a wonderfully relaxing and safe spring break!**



# Social Studies

**MRS. WILMETTI AND MRS. RAWLINGS-CARROLL  
HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO INVITE MAYOR  
MICKELSON IN TO VISIT WITH THEIR CLASSES.**



**PHOTO COURTESY OF TRINA BRITAIN**



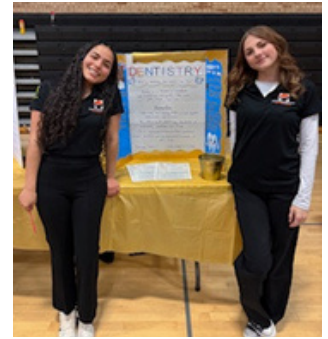
**STUDENTS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE PROCLAMATION GOT TO SEE THE CITY COUNCIL IN ACTION TO BETTER UNDERSTAND WHAT LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEADERS DO. MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL DISCUSSED HOW IMPORTANT CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND KNOWLEDGE OF THE FOUNDATIONAL DOCUMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES ARE TO AN ENGAGED AND KNOWLEDGEABLE CITIZENRY.**



HOCA Students were busy this past few months. Our Senior Jae Boot Initiative provided many of our seniors with an experience that helped to make connections, as well as a commitment to continue to do "Boot Checks"



Our sophomores hosted a Career Fair for the freshmen and they did a fabulous job sharing information about the career opportunities in the healthcare industry.



# PE/Health

**IN HEALTH, WE HAVE BEEN FOCUSING ON THE TOP HEALTH RISKS THAT TEENS ARE SUSCEPTIBLE TO. THERE HAS BEEN A MAJOR FOCUS ON HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS.**

**ALSO, SHOUTOUT TO OFFICER HAGER & OFFICER STROUSE FOR COMING IN AS GUEST SPEAKERS TO DISCUSS THE GOOD & BAD OF SOCIAL MEDIA.**

**MS. WEIDLE TOOK ANOTHER GROUP OF STUDENTS TO THE CRATER TO BECOME SCUBA CERTIFIED LAST WEEK.**



# Hathaway Information

- The Hathaway Scholarship was established to help Wyoming's students prepare for and pursue their post-secondary education in the state.
- The Hathaway Scholarship helps students attend college by helping to pay for tuition. It can be used at the University of Wyoming or at any of the Wyoming's Community Colleges.
- Every Wyoming middle and high school student is automatically eligible for the Hathaway Scholarship, but they must maintain certain GPA scores and meet certain class requirements throughout high school in order to graduate with it. You can find the specifics here.

Honors	Performance	Opportunity	Provisional
\$1,680 Max Award Amount Per Semester	\$1,260 Max Award Amount Per Semester	\$840 Max Award Amount Per Semester	\$840 Max Award Amount Per Semester
May be used at a WY community college or at UW	May be used at a WY community college or at UW	May be used at a WY community college or at UW	Must first be used at a WY community college. *
<b>Language Arts</b> 4 Years	<b>Language Arts</b> 4 Years	<b>Language Arts</b> 4 Years	<b>Language Arts</b> Current HS graduation requirements
<b>Math</b> 4 Years Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, and one "additional math" course (additional math must be taken in grades 9-12)	<b>Math</b> 4 Years Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, and one "additional math" course (additional math must be taken in grades 9-12)	<b>Math</b> 4 Years Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, and one "additional math" course (additional math must be taken in grades 9-12)	<b>Math</b> Current HS graduation requirements; at least 2 of these courses: Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry
<b>Social Studies</b> 3 Years	<b>Social Studies</b> 3 Years	<b>Social Studies</b> 3 Years	<b>Social Studies</b> Current HS graduation requirements
<b>Science</b> 4 years One year may include an "additional science" course	<b>Science</b> 4 years One year may include an "additional science" course	<b>Science</b> 4 years One year may include an "additional science" course	<b>Science</b> Current HS graduation requirements
<b>FPA or CTE or WL</b> 4 years of either fine and performing arts, world language or career and technical education. <b>2 of the 4 years must be sequenced</b>	<b>FPA or CTE or WL</b> 4 years of either fine and performing arts, world language or career and technical education. <b>2 of the 4 years must be sequenced</b>	<b>FPA or CTE or WL</b> 2 years of either fine and performing arts, career and technical education, or world language (WL must be sequenced)	<b>FPA or CTE or WL</b> 2 years of either fine and performing arts, career and technical education, or world language (WL must be sequenced)
<b>Hathaway GPA</b> 3.5	<b>Hathaway GPA</b> 3.0	<b>Hathaway GPA</b> 2.5	<b>Hathaway GPA</b> 2.5
<b>ACT Score</b> 25	<b>ACT Score</b> 21	<b>ACT Score</b> 19	<b>ACT Score</b> 17 or <b>WorkKeys® Score</b> 12

# The building blocks of crisis response. An institutional all-hazards approach.



Hold



Secure



Lockdown



Evacuate



Shelter



## STANDARD RESPONSE PROTOCOL

### INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

Our school has adopted The "I Love U Guys" Foundation's Standard Response Protocol (SRP). Students and staff will be training, practicing, and drilling the protocol.

### COMMON LANGUAGE

The Standard Response Protocol (SRP) is based on an all-hazards approach as opposed to individual scenarios. Like the Incident Command System (ICS), SRP utilizes clear common language while allowing for flexibility in protocol.

The premise is simple - there are five specific actions that can be performed during an incident. When communicating these, the action is labeled with a "Term of Art" and is then followed by a "Directive." Execution of the action is performed by active participants, including students, staff, teachers and first responders. The SRP is based on the following actions: Hold, Secure, Lockdown, Evacuate, and Shelter.

## HOLD

### "In Your Classroom or Area"

**Students** are trained to:

- Clear the hallways and remain in their area or room until the "All Clear" is announced
- Do business as usual

**Adults and staff** are trained to:

- Close and lock the door
- Account for students and adults
- Do business as usual



## SECURE

### "Get Inside. Lock outside doors"

**Students** are trained to:

- Return to inside of building
- Do business as usual

**Adults and staff** are trained to:

- Bring everyone indoors
- Lock the outside doors
- Increase situational awareness
- Account for students and adults
- Do business as usual



## LOCKDOWN

### "Locks, Lights, Out of Sight"

**Students** are trained to:

- Move away from sight
- Maintain silence
- Do not open the door

**Adults and staff** are trained to:

- Recover students from hallway if possible
- Lock the classroom door
- Turn out the lights
- Move away from sight
- Maintain silence
- Do not open the door
- Prepare to evade or defend



## EVACUATE

### "To a Location"

**Students** are trained to:

- Leave stuff behind if required to
- If possible, bring their phone
- Follow instructions

**Adults and staff** are trained to:

- Bring roll sheet and Go Bag (unless instructed not to bring anything with them, dependent on reason for evacuation.)
- Lead students to Evacuation location
- Account for students and adults
- Report injuries or problems using Red Card/Green Card method.



## SHELTER

### "State Hazard and Safety Strategy"

**Hazards** might include:

- Tornado
- Hazmat
- Earthquake
- Tsunami

**Safety Strategies** might include:

- Evacuate to shelter area
- Seal the room
- Drop, cover and hold
- Get to high ground

**Students** are trained in:

- Appropriate Hazards and Safety Strategies

**Adults and staff** are trained in:

- Appropriate Hazards and Safety Strategies
- Accounting for students and adults
- Report injuries or problems using Red Card/Green Card method.

