



Embracing Today – Inspiring Tomorrow

PATTON | OLIVE | IVY HILL | GREENBRIER | THOMAS
WINDSOR | WESTGATE | DRYDEN | SOUTH

Dear District 25 Parents:

Each year, we work with the Arlington Heights Police Department to do several safety drills at each District 25 school. In addition to Fire Drills and Shelter-in-Place Drills, we practice Lockdown Drills.

Staff and students are well versed in the steps to take during a lockdown drill. Typically, staff members guide students into a section of the classroom, and with lights out and doors locked, they help students sit silently until the drill has concluded.

Over the past several years, the Arlington Heights Police Department has varied the experiences our staff and students have during lockdown drills in order to help them think about the steps they should take. For example, lockdown drills have been held during lunch periods, during passing periods, or while students are outside at recess.

This spring, each of our schools will again participate in a lockdown drill. This drill, however, may be a little bit different. Our staff members have been experiencing training in *Options-based Response*. Basically, this means that if a staff member has specific information during a situation that convinces him/her that their students would be safer if they evacuated from their specific space, the adult could choose that response instead of the typical lockdown procedures.

Therefore, this spring, some teachers at each school will have an envelope to open during the announced lockdown drill. If the contents of the envelope give them information that makes them decide to evacuate rather than to lockdown, they will say to their students, "Boys and girls, for this practice drill it is safer for us to leave the room together. Please come with me to _____. We might see a police officer as we leave our room; they are here practicing with us." Most of our classes will utilize the lockdown drill procedures they are accustomed to, but a few classes at each building may use this alternate response.

We will teach all students about this alternate response that they may experience during this spring's lockdown drill. Also, all lockdown drills this spring will be announced ahead of time so that staff, students, and families know the week in which they will occur.

If you have any questions about our lockdown procedures, please feel free to contact the principal or me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Lori D. Bein'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lori D. Bein, Ed.D.
Superintendent