

THE MADIGAN MEMO

A quarterly newsletter brought to you by Mr. Madigan

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EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS & LOCKDOWN PROCEDURES



After the recent tragedy in Parkland, Florida, I received a lot of email and phone calls asking for information about how we prepare for emergencies and lock down situations at Stillwater. At Stillwater, we take emergency preparedness seriously and routinely practice drills and procedures so if a situation arises, we can act quickly and get our students to a safe place. Our school has an Emergency Preparedness Manual that lays out our incident command system, organizational job responsibilities and instructions for both administration and teachers to follow for every conceivable emergency we might face. We review this manual yearly and assign employees to a variety of support roles in case of an

emergency. Staff members are assigned to student care, first aid, search and rescue, campus security, supply and student reunification. Each year, each scenario is rehearsed with our students and we review and revise our processes continually as necessary.

We also practice scenarios such as one with a dangerous intruder or active shooter. We hold "table top" role plays where we are confronted with an incident and we practice our thinking and emergency response. These role plays are intense as each incident goes into more and more detail with unpredictable changes to the narrative. At the end of one of these sessions, we debrief and review how things went and make any necessary changes. This process is continual and valued by our staff.

After the tragic event at Sandy Hook Elementary six years ago, we began to reevaluate our campus security and procedures for visitors to our school. We made policy changes and adjustments to a variety of different entry points to make us safer. The Riverview School District has a district level approach to emergency preparedness and included this into the strategic plan for the district. We train as a district as well. Two years ago, we held an active shooter drill at Cedarcrest High School with help from our police and fire departments. Every district administrator was in attendance and participated in the drill and review. This was real time practice for first responders and the staff of Cedarcrest High School. I hope and pray that we will never face a situation such as those in Parkland, Florida and other schools across the United States. But if we do, the time we spend in preparation and practice will be the difference in protecting the lives of our students and staff.

I recently held two "Coffee Hours with the Principal" sessions and shared this information with concerned parents. On the first Wednesday of the month, I sponsor a Coffee Hour, so if you would like to talk more about emergency preparedness or any other topic, please call the school AT 425 -844-4680 and RSVP for the next session which is scheduled for April 4th.

As our Hawk Mindset reminds us, Safety is one of the pillars that we expect from our students and we believe that it must go beyond just our students, but to our staff and all the families that pass through our doors.