

HAMLIN SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 28-3

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Dear Parent(s),

We take very seriously the great responsibility of keeping your child safe while attending school. As violent incidents continue to increase across the country including violent incidents in schools, we felt it was necessary to reassess the districts emergency operation plans relating to violent intruders. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security along with the U.S. Department of Education have issued guidelines and recommendations for schools K-12 and how to handle violent intruder incidents. Both agencies and many others recommend training in a three-pronged response: Run, Hide and Fight Back as a last resort. Rest assured we are NOT training our young students to physically attack intruders, but there are things all potential victims can do to increase their chances of survival should the unthinkable ever happen.

All district staff have been trained in a program called S.A.V.E. Yourself®. The program is based on the recommended run, hide, fight philosophy. S.A.V.E. Yourself® was developed by Chad Sheehan a 23-year veteran of law enforcement(retired). Our staff has been educated and empowered to make real-time decisions to do whatever it takes to increase survivability in a violent intruder event.

We feel it is important to educate you and your child on the changes we've made to our emergency operation plans. The education of students was done yesterday (August 30) with age-appropriate language and content.

Run

It is no longer acceptable to offer a Lockdown only response. If safe to do so, our staff will attempt to rapidly evacuate the building and go to pre-designated "rally points". This rapid evacuation may include multiple and non-traditional routes out of a building or location.

Hide

If rapid evacuation is not possible, staff will attempt to shelter/barricade in place and make every attempt to keep a violent intruder away from students. Any and all methods to create barriers will be used. While sheltering in place students will be asked to assist in barricading as staff are evaluating secondary evacuation options and preparing to defend students as a last resort. Students will be taught to distract and evacuate (age-appropriate levels) if the room is compromised.

Fight

Fighting back as a last resort is just that, a last resort measure. This option, as it relates to elementary and middle school students, is about doing things to be a more difficult target if confronted by a violent intruder. We will NOT be instructing elementary school students to physically attack intruders. All students will be taught how to be more difficult targets by creating distractions, moving and reacting quickly to danger.

As you talk to your child, please encourage them to follow the guidance of staff and the importance of reacting quickly.

Please feel free to contact the district with any questions or concerns about this or any policy.

Sincerely,
Superintendent
Jim Hulscher

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