

Dear Parents and Friends,

It is very important to us at Rise and Shine that we have a safe, supportive, caring and peaceful environment for our students, faculty and staff. Safety is of critical importance to me and also to our school community. In light of all that is going on in the world today, we realize that Rise & Shine needs to do everything we can to be prepared to respond in crisis situations.

A couple of years ago, we had the Brunswick police department come in to our school to help us determine what to do and how to respond. A few years ago we had an informational meeting with Sargent Doug Laino and Officer John Witthuhn, School Safety Expert. He gave procedures to equip our staff and even the students with how best to respond if there is an active shooter/intruder in or around the school. This information is based on many years of experience and knowledge that law enforcement has obtained from situations that have happened all over the country. The safety procedures that are in place use technology and information in a way that allows staff to make informed decisions in a crisis situation and remove as many people as possible from a danger zone.

Here is what we plan to do to prepare Rise & Shine in event of a threat to the children:

- * We will conduct drills without children 3 times a year.
- * We will reevaluate our procedures before the start of every school year and throughout the year when new information comes to us.
- * We will practice with the children 3 times a year, evacuating the building as fast as we can. They may tell you something along the lines of “We played follow the leader today and ran after our teacher.” “We did the Get out Fast drill”. We want them to get used to running out of the building with us. We will keep it light and fun. We will not be talking about bad guys, shooters, guns. We believe our children are too young for this, and it will be of no benefit to them to make this a part of practicing evacuations. A benefit of our building is that each one of our classrooms has more than one way out of the room. When we practice with the children, we will not be using the windows.
- * We have also increased the amount of times our doors are locked. You may have noticed this already. Please be patient. You may have to wait for someone to let you in.
- * We have added training and resources, which Brunswick Police Department and experts across the country believe will increase the chances for staff and students to survive an intruder.
- * As parents, you are also an integral part of our school safety plan. As always, if you see or hear something that does not seem “normal” or “right”, please let us know right away. Many eyes and ears always make for the safest environment of all.

A.B.C.D.E

Alert -- Get the word out! “Armed intruder in the building” , “ Danger outside”
We will use clear, concise language to convey the necessary details and location of the event.

Barricade -- We have resources to barricade the rooms to stop or slow down the intruder. Every second counts. We will get to a room without windows if danger is outside.

Communicate -- Communicate information in real time as soon as possible, if it is safe to do so.

Distract-- Apply skills to distract, confuse and gain control if the intruder is in the room. This is NOT fighting.

Exit -- Reduce the number of potential targets for the shooter, and reduce chances of victims resulting from friendly fire when help arrives.

In short, using the above A.B.C.D steps we will teach our staff in the event an armed intruder/active shooter invades our secure area, they:

1. Listen carefully to the location and type of event.
2. Get to and/or remain in a secure area until it is safe to evacuate.
3. Should an armed intruder/active shooter invade our area, apply skills to distract, confuse, gain control at teacher/staff direction.
4. As soon as it is safe to do so, evacuate.

In NO WAY are we asking or teaching our staff or students to make any attempt to subdue an armed gunman outside of their secure area. However, we will provide them with knowledge that if faced with a life or death situation there are methods that can and should be applied to greatly enhance their chance of survival. The methods that will be taught in the event they are directly confronted with an armed gunman are:

1. Cause distractions to interfere with the ability to shoot correctly.
2. Cause as much chaos in the room as possible to create sensory overload.
3. Do not be a stationary target.
4. How to interact with responding law enforcement.

Training will emphasize that the best way to survive an active shooter is to escape. When that is not possible, being mentally prepared and having been given the authority and ability to act will save lives. If you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact me either through an email or phone.