



Homer-Center High School
Homer-Center School District
"Where Everybody is Somebody"

Homer-Center High School
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September 10, 2019

Dear Parents:

On Thursday, September 26 and Wednesday, November 6 the Homer-Center Elementary School will be conducting Active Shooter Drills. The purpose of this drill is have our students and staff practice the action steps we have developed in case somebody would try to inflict harm with a weapon in our elementary school. During the drill we will also test our mass parent notification system. In the case of a true active shooter crisis at our school we would communicate through the mass communication system specific instructions for parents as to where to report to be reunified with their children.

Our Emergency Operations Planning Committee is mindful the manner in which we conduct a drill and communicate to children is dependent upon the age and stage of development of the children. We have scheduled a staff briefing to review strategies of communication with children in our elementary school. We will deploy strategies of communication that will not increase anxiety or fear, but will emphasize the importance of children to intently listen to the instructions of the teacher and quickly act in a crises event. We ask parents to discuss with their children the importance of listening to the teacher and doing what is asked of them during any crisis event.

We realize in a time of crisis a parent's first reaction is to get to their child to protect them. Parents are asked to resist the following normal parent reactions to an active shooter or crisis event at a school.

- **Parents should NOT call your child's cell phone**
 - If you child was able to find concealment in a safe location, calling your child's cell phone could reveal the location of your child and place your child at greater risk for injury or death.
- **Parent should NOT rush to the school to retrieve your child**
 - Rushing to the school creates multiple issues; it will create traffic obstructions and delay the first responders from quickly arriving at the school to eliminate the threat. This delay of emergency responders will place more children and staff at risk of injury or death. Rushing to the school will also divert attention of internal school crisis response teams from placing all their efforts to mitigating the crisis situation and attempting to prevent injury and death.
- **Parents should NOT call the school for more information.**
 - Once the crisis situation is contained or eliminated the school will activate the mass parent notification system to provide a brief update and to direct parents on where to report to reunify with their child. Calling the school as a crisis event is unfolding could jam our phone lines and hinder vital communication to first responders in route to the school. Calling the school as a crisis event is unfolding will divert attention of our internal crisis response team from attempting to contain and mitigate the immediate threat to your child and place children at greater risk for injury or death. We realize parents want to know of a crisis event immediately and this communication is a high priority to our school. However, our first priority is to deploy all our resources and efforts to contain and eliminate any threat to the safety of your child. In a crisis event we will communicate with you critical information through our mass parent notification system once the threat is contained or eliminated.

Again, we ask your assistance by discussing with your child the importance of intently listening and responding to the teacher instructions during a crisis event. Thank you for the trust you place in us to protect, care and educate your children.

Respectfully,

Jody Rainey
Homer-Center Safety Coordinator