



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

Homer-Center High School
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April 25, 2019

Dear Parents:

Today, April 25, your child participated in an Active Shooter Drill at Homer-Center High School. In an active shooter situation we have various potential actions our teachers can elect to implement based on the information communicated. Our teachers are trained to take the action that will keep the greatest number of students safe. Our scenario for this drill was planned to assure the best action to select was "Get-Out" and evacuate the building. Our student and staff execution of the evacuation was exceptional. Our students were focused, attentive and decisive in all phases of the drill. I am very proud students and staff recognized the seriousness of this drill and responded at such a high level.

At the conclusion of the drill our teachers led debriefings and have begun to submit reports regarding student post-drill questions and discussion from these meetings. The reports I have been able to review thus far are very informative and will help us strength our response in the future.

As a reminder to parents, if this would have been a real crisis event, we realize 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.
- **Parents 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.

We ask you discuss the drill with your child. As always, we continue to 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
Principal