



BRUNSWICK SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

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Dear Brunswick School Community,

Our administrators, in partnership with building-based Safety Teams and School Emergency Teams, have completed work on our newly revised and updated Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and supporting building-specific documents, plans, and systems. This project has been nearly 3 years in development, and we have consulted and partnered with our local Police Department and Fire Department to ensure community-wide alignment in our prevention, intervention, and response plans.

As you have heard throughout the school year, we have piloted “ALICE” protocols to increase our flexibility of response in emergency situations (expanding options in addition to traditional “lock down” protocols). All staff members have been trained in these practices, and many have opted to engage in deeper (not required) training. Teachers and administrators report that the trainings and the practice in augmented protocols have been extremely helpful, and that staff members feel more confident in their capacities for keeping everyone safe in the event of an emergency.

All schools have completed two out of the three required emergency drills this year. The first drill involved staff reading from a developmentally-tiered script and discussing a variety of options and responses with students. The second drill was a “table top” exercise, engaging students with their teachers in reviewing floor plans, identifying rally points in the event of an evacuation, and locating places in the classroom and school building where emergency equipment (like fire extinguishers) can be found. The final drills of this year will encourage teachers to discuss options and to make strategic decisions in response to an emergency. Some classrooms may choose to evacuate to a rally point (as we do in routine fire drills), and some may decide that the safest choice is to shelter in place and discuss additional safety measures.

As always, please feel free to contact your child’s teacher or a building administrator if you have questions or concerns about our Emergency Management Plan or our safety drills.

Sincerely,

Pender Makin

Assistant Superintendent of Schools

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