

11.01.16

Dear Parents,

Last October, I wrote a News Notes letter about the safety drills we conduct throughout the year. We follow the Kentucky Center for School Safety (KCSS) requirements. Like all schools, we spend time practicing fire, earthquake, severe weather drills and lockdowns. Conducting safety drills in various locations throughout the building is necessary and allows us to find opportunities for improvement. After each drill, we assess how it went and how we can make it better.

Safety drills are teachable moments for everyone in the building. Some of you may have been in the building during one of our monthly fire drills before, or in a classroom during the lockdown or earthquake drill that we had last month. Practicing safety can seem disruptive, but it is a vital life skill for all of us. We ask, if you are here with us, that you fully participate in the experience. Students are always watching the adults around them, so it is important for you to be an example of what to do in an emergency.

Fire drills are practiced monthly, and our radios are an important part of the process to communicate with the classrooms throughout the campus. Teachers locate their radios in convenient locations in their classrooms -- usually by their doors, so they can grab them on their way out. The goal is to get out of the building as quickly as possible, so classes exit out all doors. I communicate with the PreK3 classroom by Hehman Hall and the PreK4 classroom in the church basement via the radio to determine when they are safely out of the building.

We time our exits from the building as well. Typically, it takes the entire student body, faculty, and staff approximately two minutes to get out of the building. Students are encouraged to walk quickly -- but not to run -- and to be silent. We have had many guests in our building during our fire drills. Recently, we were complimented on how quiet and attentive our students were. One of the most important things to do during any drill is to stay quiet and listen to the adults in charge.

As a visitor or volunteer in the school, you may be the adult in charge of a group of children. We appreciate your support for these very important policies, and for keeping yourself knowledgeable of the procedures. If you would like to learn more about school safety, check out the Kentucky Center for School Safety (KCSS) website at <http://www.kycss.org>.

Thank you!

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