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Superintendent of Schools

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

I would like to share information regarding the Millville Public School District's Emergency Management Plan. Many details of our plan will need to be kept confidential to safeguard our students and staff members. We have very clear and well thought out procedures to respond to a variety of emergencies. Our plan is the result of hours of collaboration with law enforcement, school and district personnel, and the NJ Department of Education. While no plan is perfect, we are confident that our plan is comprehensive and will keep our students and staff safe.

One emergency response mode is "shelter in place". As you are likely aware, we have utilized this action several times this year. There are several reasons we go into "shelter in place". In general, we use this mode when we learn of potential danger in the surrounding area of a school (or schools). This mode ensures that nobody enters or leaves the building while in this action, essentially "locking down" the perimeter of the location. During a "shelter in place" learning can continue inside the school. This mode allows the students and teachers to maintain business as usual other than entry and dismissal from the building. Another mode we enter into for specific or imminent threats against a school (or schools) is "lockdown". Similar to "shelter in place" entry and exit are not permitted. The major difference between the two modes is a "lockdown" freezes all learning and activity.

Lastly I would like to share our priorities during any emergency. The top priority is your child's safety and the safety of our staff. To that end, we work with the local police department to safeguard our schools. Our communication between law enforcement and school personnel is critical. Once we have engaged our Emergency Response Plan we are actively working with law enforcement until they give us the "all clear". When the police department issues the "all clear" notification we utilize a variety of communication tools to share the information. We will use the district's Facebook page, the district's website homepage, as well as the automated calling service. Unfortunately, in many cases, we are limited regarding what we can share as it is part of a police investigation. Many parents have asked to be notified when we enter into our Emergency Response Plan and as a parent I understand why, but as the person ultimately responsible for the district's management during a crisis, notifying parents at the start could likely result in parents and guardians arriving at the school (or schools) which would take emergency responders away from the primary issue. The most important piece of information is that all students and staff are safe.

It is very important that we have current phone numbers in order to reach you. Should you have any reason to think your numbers are not current please contact your child's school.

Thank you for your support and understanding. If you have any questions please feel free to contact my office at 327-6001.

Sincerely,

David N. Gentile, Ed. D
Superintendent

The Operational Values of the Superintendent's Cabinet are known as CoAcH:

Competency Accountability Honesty