

Dear Student Caregivers,

At Mankato Area Public Schools, the safety and well-being of our students and staff are our highest priority. To ensure our preparedness for various emergency situations, we will be conducting a safety drill known as "Lockdown" on Tuesday, November 17, Wednesday, December 2, Monday, January 11, Monday, February 22, and Friday, March 24.

Purpose of the Drill: "Lockdown" is designed to prepare students and staff for an exceedingly rare circumstance - when an intruder enters the school premises. During this drill, teachers will follow specific safety protocols, including locking classroom doors, turning off lights, moving individuals away from windows and doors, not opening doors, instructing students to remain quiet, and that students remain out of sight.

Opt-Out Option: Per Minnesota Statute 121A.038, parents have the option to opt their student(s) out of this required safety drill. If you choose to opt your student out, please notify the school office. You will be able to pick up your student(s) 30 minutes before the drill begins and return them 30 minutes after it is completed.

Special Considerations: If your student has experienced violence or trauma that participating in this drill might reactivate, we kindly request that you notify the school office. We are committed to providing the necessary support and accommodations to ensure the emotional well-being of our students.

Our Commitment to Safety: That these drills are conducted with the care and attention to safety. Our staff is well-trained to oversee the process, and our primary goal is to equip both students and staff with the knowledge and skills to respond effectively in emergency situations.

We sincerely hope that we never have to put this training into practice, but preparedness is an essential aspect of ensuring the safety of our school community.

Contact Information: Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the lockdown or our school's safety procedures, please feel free to contact me, Marti Sievek, at 507-387-3047. We are here to address any inquiries you may have and to work together to maintain a safe and secure learning environment for our students.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Marti Sievek
Central High School
Mankato Area Public Schools