



Ellendale Public School

321 N. 1st St, PO Box 400, Ellendale ND 58436
Ph. (701) 349-3232 - Fax (701) 349-3447
www.ellendale.k12.nd.us

Superintendent
Chip Sundberg

Business Manager
Lana Norton

H.S. Principal
Cindy Rall

Elem. Principal
Allison Radermacher

School Board: Pres. - Michele Thorpe, Vice Pres. - Kent Schimke, Director - Kristi Gilbert, Director - Cresta Miller, Director - Val Wagner

Re: School Safety Student Presentations

December 6, 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We take very seriously the great responsibility of keeping your child safe while attending school. As violent incidents continue to increase across the country including violent incidents in schools, we felt it was necessary to reassess the districts emergency operation plans relating to violent intruders. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security along with the U.S. Department of Education have issued guidelines and recommendations for schools K-12 and how to handle violent intruder incidents. Both agencies and many others recommend training in a three-pronged response: Run, Hide and Fight Back as a last resort. Rest assured we are NOT training our young students to physically attack intruders, but there are things all potential victims can do to increase their chances of survival should the unthinkable ever happen.

All district staff has been trained in a program called S.A.V.E. Yourself®. The program is based on the recommended run, hide, fight philosophy. S.A.V.E. Yourself® was developed by Chad Sheehan a 29-year veteran of law enforcement and current Woodbury County Iowa Sheriff. Our staff has been educated and empowered to make real time decisions to do whatever it takes to increase survivability in a violent intruder event. Mr. Sheehan will present to our students in grade appropriate levels on Wednesday, December 14th. We feel it is important to educate you and your child on the changes we've made to our emergency operation plans. Education of students will be done with age appropriate language and content. If you wish to opt out of this training for your child, please notify his/her teacher by returning this letter with your signature at the bottom of the letter, and your wishes will be honored.

Run

It is no longer acceptable to offer a Lockdown only response. If safe to do so, our staff will attempt to rapidly evacuate the building and go to pre-designated "rally points". This rapid evacuation may include multiple and non-traditional routes out of a building or location.

Hide

If rapid evacuation is not possible, staff will attempt to shelter/barricade in place and make every attempt to keep a violent intruder away from students. Any and all methods to create barriers will be used. While sheltering in place, students will be asked to assist in barricading as staff is evaluating secondary evacuation options and preparing to defend students as a last resort. Students will be taught to distract and evacuate (age appropriate levels) if the room is compromised.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

The Ellendale School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, national origin, sex, or handicap in its educational program, activities, and employment practices.



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Fight

Fighting back as a last resort is just that, a last resort measure. This option, as it relates to elementary students, is about doing things to be a more difficult target if confronted by a violent intruder. For elementary students we will not use words such as killer, shooter, guns. We will NOT be instructing elementary school students to physically attack intruders. All students will be taught how to be more difficult targets by creating distractions, moving, and reacting quickly to danger.

As you talk to your child, please encourage them to follow the guidance of staff and the importance of reacting quickly.

Please feel free to contact the district with any questions or concerns about this or any policy.

Yours in Education,

Chip Sundberg, Superintendent
Ellendale Public School

If you do not want your child(ren) to be present for the presentation, please sign and date this letter on the signature line.

Student's name

Parent's Signature

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