

October 1, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are proud to serve the students of the Parkland School District. We continually strive to provide a safe and secure learning environment for all students and staff in our school buildings.

In order to maintain a safe environment for your children to study and learn, it is necessary that we practice our emergency and crisis response plans by conducting drills that exercise our procedures to better prepare staff and students. There are a few basic response drills as stipulated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education that we practice throughout the school year – *Lockdown, Shelter-In-Place*, and *Evacuation*. Parkland School District adopted the active assailant protocol endorsed by the Department of Homeland Security called *Run, Hide, Fight* as of August 2018.

Act 44 of 2018 stipulated that commonwealth schools conduct one security-based drill within the first 90 school days in lieu of a monthly *Evacuation Drill*. The law also allows commonwealth schools to replace an additional monthly *Evacuation Drill* with a security-based drill after the first 90 days of school. Parkland School District conducts annual *Lockdown Drills* to meet this requirement during the months of October and February.

In accordance with Act 44 of 2018, we will be conducting a security-based drill by practicing a *Lockdown Drill* with all students and staff members. As part of the legislation, Parkland School District will invite local law enforcement and first responders to help evaluate and improve our emergency protocols and practices. Feel free to contact your building principal or myself with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

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Anthony M. Naradko, Ed.D. Director of District Safety and Security Parkland School District