



Dear Parents,

We pray that the first month of school is off to a great start. We love to see our halls once again filled with smiling faces, and hear the busy chatter of active learning in our classrooms. As you know, the first month of school is a time for us to lay the ground work for the rest of the year. While much of our time is focused on the spiritual, academic and social growth of our children, we also want to make a priority time to focus on your child's safety while they are at school.

During the week of September 26<sup>th</sup> each class will be reviewing our school's lockdown drill, and walking to the New Berlin City Hall. City Hall is our school's evacuation point should we ever need to leave Star in an emergency situation. We want our students to be aware of this should we ever need to relocate there.

During a lockdown drill each teacher will close their door, turn out their lights and guide their children to a location in the classroom that keeps everyone out of view from the classroom door. Each teacher explains this to their class in a completely age appropriate way.

We wanted to let you know our plan, and give you the chance to talk to your children about the drill. Our goal, while practicing important safety procedures, is to be sure all children feel safe and prepared. If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher, or Jenny Treuden, our School Safety Coordinator.

Below are some things you as a parent can do to help your child prepare for school drills. As a parent, you are in the best position to help your child prepare for them.

- All children need to hear often that Jesus loves them and always takes care of them.
- Young children need brief simple information that should be balanced with reassurance. This includes informing children that their school and home are safe and that adults are there to protect them. Young children respond well to basic assurance by adults and simple examples of school safety, like reminding them that the school doors are locked.
- Early Middle School Children may be more vocal in asking questions about whether they are truly safe and what is being done at their school. They may need assistance separating reality from fantasy. Parents can share the information they have about the school's safety plan, and their knowledge that the teachers are educated and prepared should an emergency arise to ease their child's mind.
- Upper Middle School students may have strong and varying opinions about the causes of violence in school and society. Parents should stress the role that the students have in maintaining safe schools by following the school's safety guidelines, not providing building access to strangers, and reporting suspicious activity.
- During quiet times at home, talk to your kids about the various drills they may encounter at school such as fire, tornado and lock down drills.
- Role-play the parts of student and teacher (swap roles, too) to show your child exactly how it might sound and feel to be involved in a drill.
- Reassure your child that while these drills may feel scary, the teachers are just helping them learn how to think and react in an emergency, which is unlikely to happen.

Please remember that you know your child better than anyone else. You can do more to prepare him or her if you plan ahead, and talk about school drills often.

Most importantly, we have the peace of knowing that God is in control, and that He is always taking care of us.

Thank you for your help,

  
Jenny Treuden, Safety Coordinator

  
Tim Mueller, Principal