

Gardner Public Schools



www.gardnerk12.org

70 Waterford Street, Gardner, MA 01440

(978) 632-1000

03/30/2023

Dear Gardner Public School Community,

During the month of April, all GPS schools will conduct "Run, Hide, Fight" drills to practice what we would do in the event of an active or dangerous threat. Practicing these drills is an important part of the District's Emergency Operations Plan which helps staff and students prepare for all possible threats.

Through collaboration with the Gardner Police Department, Gardner Fire Department, District Administrators, Building Administrators, and Building staff, drills will be conducted in a calm manner. Police and fire personnel will be on site during the drills and clear communication will be used to ensure students and staff understand and feel safe. Please Note:

- Drills and announcements will be conducted in an age-appropriate way;
- Teachers will lead students in practicing "hide" in the classroom;
- Teachers will lead students in practicing "run" by exiting the building through the nearest exit with the knowledge that in a real situation they would keep going away from the threat;
- The "fight" component will not be practiced during drills;
- Once everyone is outside, they will stay on school grounds and reenter the building promptly; and
- Following the drill, parents will be notified that the drill has been completed.

You can prepare your child(ren) for these drills by talking to them beforehand and assuring them that:

- Drills help school staff and students to be prepared;
- This is a routine drill just like a fire drill; and
- This type of drill will be recurring in the Fall and Spring each year.

If anyone has any questions or concerns regarding this upcoming drill, please feel free to contact our Director of Health and Safety, Becky McCaffrey at (978) 410-7468.

Sincerely,

Mark J. Pellegrino, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Rebecca A. McCaffrey
Director of Health and Safety

Community • Appreciation • Responsibility • Excellence

The Gardner Public School District does not discriminate due to race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, age, homelessness or limited English proficiency.