



Pocono Mountain School District

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October 10, 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Pocono Mountain School District administrators, faculty and staff are committed to keeping your children safe while at school and while riding on our school buses. To make sure our students, faculty, staff and administrators understand how to respond during an emergency, we practice a number of safety-related drills throughout the school year, as follows:

- **Bus Evacuation Drills:** During the first few weeks of school and in the Spring, our schools practice bus evaluation drills;
- **Mandatory Security Drill:** Within the first 90 days of school, all schools are required by Act 44 to conduct a school-wide security drill;
- **Fire Evacuation Drills:** District schools conduct monthly fire evacuation drills. This is both a Fire Code and Pennsylvania School Code requirement. The school code allows schools to use one fire drill within the first 90 school days for the mandatory security drill;
- **Hazardous Weather Drills:** Our schools participate in at least one hazardous weather drill each school year, usually in March or April, where our schools practice sheltering in-place away from windows;
- **Emergency Drills:** Our schools practice Lockdown and Run, Hide, Fight Drills periodically throughout the school year.

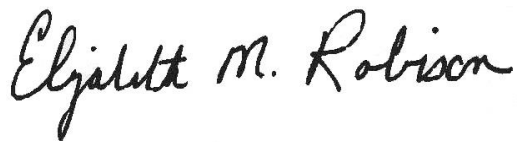
If we would encounter an emergency in the District that requires us to implement a lockdown of a school or schools, we need the following support from parents and guardians:

- Please refrain from immediately calling or rushing to your child's school. When a building is locked down, it's important for parents to understand they will not be allowed into the school and students will not be released to their parents until the lockdown is lifted. In the event of an emergency:
 - School staff will be busy responding to the emergency and addressing the needs of students. Keeping the telephone lines open for emergency use is critical to the District's ability to respond quickly and effectively to an emergency.
 - District officials also need to keep the roadways and school campuses as free from other traffic as possible, so emergency responders (police, fire fighters, emergency medical personnel, ambulances, etc.) can get to our schools as quickly as possible.

- Monitor the PMSD website at www.pmsd.org for updates District officials post for parents, keeping in mind that our first priority in an emergency is ensuring the safety of our students and employees.
- Ensure your child's emergency contact information is up-to-date and correct. District officials will provide updates through the use of the ParentLink phone messaging system.
- For those parents who have signed up to receive text and email alert messages, please ensure your contact information is correct. Parents may sign up to receive alert text and email messages through the PMSD Alert Text & Email Messages link on the PMSD website under the Helpful Link section.
- Monitor local news media outlets for updates. The District will send advisories to local television, newspaper and radio outlets to help us keep parents informed.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding Pocono Mountain School District's safety-related drills and emergency preparedness efforts, please contact your child's school principal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth M. Robison". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Elizabeth Robison
Superintendent of Schools