



Elementary News and Notes

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Wow! I am always surprised when we turn the calendar to October, just how quickly the year is going. Just as surprising is how quickly it goes moving forward. We have been busy with Fire Drills in the last couple of weeks. That will continue with one or two more before it gets cold. We are required to do 5 a year.

We also are required to do five lockdown drills per year. These will be starting during the week of October 7th. Per state law we have to notify you of these drills and give you the opportunity to have your child not participate in the drill. However, because our alarms and announcements are heard throughout the building, we do not have a spot in the building to house your child where they will not hear the drills taking place. Due to this, you will have an option to pick up your child from school during the drill and for up to an hour following the drill without being marked tardy or absent from school. If you wish to not have your child participate in these drills, please let me know by email at benmidge@deschools.org some time this week. You will be given notification before each lockdown drill happens.

Our goal with these state mandated drills are to make sure we are prepared, not scared for events that unfortunately are very much a part of our society today. We will run scenarios and ensure all adults have multiple choices to work with in the event of a real lockdown. We keep these as low-key as we can for students in Preschool-5th Grade. Each class will read the Book, "I Am Prepared, Not Scared", which is a picture book to address how to stay safe.

Lockdown Drill Dates 2024-25:

October 10, 2024

November 14, 2024

December 12, 2024

January 9, 2025

February 13, 2025

Updates to Language for Safety Protocols: Just by way of an FYI, we are going to be changing our language for all safety events in the school. Our protocols don't change, just how we classify the events to be all encompassing. In past years we used the terms, "Soft Lockdown", "Hard Lockdown", "Evacuate". We will be changing our terminology to better fit all safety events, not just for intruders. The following will be terms/signs, along with possible reasons why we would call for such responses we will be teaching to the students. Staff has already been introduced to the new terminology.



HOLD- This will be used in responses where we need to clear the hallway due to a medical emergency, or potential other private situation that we need to limit student exposure.



Secure- This one we will get everyone inside the building, lock all exterior doors. Continue as normal within the building. We will use this if there is an emergency or situation within the community. So, no direct issues at the school building itself.



Lockdown- Lock, lights, out of sight. We will be locking all doors, exterior and interior. This is more in line with what the drills we have had to do per state statutes. This means there is an imminent situation at the school building or grounds.



Evacuate- Typically this is to the High School gym. However, this may also encompass other possibilities such as an accident on the train tracks, with hazmat issues, that we would have to relocate further away to a neighboring town by bus. We will notify parents through JMC, so please make sure your information with the school is up to date!



Shelter- This will be used for things like tornadoes or severe weather drills.

Again the goal remains the same, to keep people safe. When talking to kids our focus is to help them be prepared, not scared. I always think of Smokey the Bear saying, “Stop, drop, and roll.” We were prepared for fire situations, we want to do that across the board with all situations we face in many places in our world today, with applicable events that unfortunately happen on too regular of a basis.

Word of the Week: Responsible Decision Making- The ability to make good choices with your words and actions.

Picture Retake Change- Those who need pictures yet, or are opting to have retakes, there is a change in dates to our retakes that just came through. The new date will be this **Friday, October 4th** from 8:00am-12:00pm. The original date was on Wednesday.

Upcoming Events:

October 4- Picture Retake Day

October 9- Walk to School Day

October 9-11- Skate Days in P.E. Class

October 14 & 15- Parent/Teacher Conferences 1:00pm-8:00pm both nights. (Early outs for students)

Elementary Calendar: For the elementary calendar please use this link.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1sqv-dCUg_sY5FtyKY7GbDSAcBO3MQ96n/view

Referendum Hub: Please see the link for information regarding the upcoming school referendum. We would like all to be educated on what the vote is for and about.

<https://sites.google.com/deschools.org/d-e-operating-referendum-hub/home>

Garage Sale @ Dover-Eyota Bus Garage: Please see the flier regarding a garage sale going on this Friday and Saturday!

Friday, October 4th
8am - 6pm

Saturday, October 5th
8am - 12pm

DE Bus Garage

Garage Sale

DE Bus Garage

Grid of 8 images showing items for sale: a black metal cabinet, a white cabinet, a metal frame, a desk, a red generator, a table, a desk with a chair, and a row of red lockers.

Have a great week everybody!

Sincerely,

Ben Midge- Elementary Principal