



HALDANE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICE

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Diana Bowers, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Linda B. Dearborn
Secretary

February 21, 2018

Dear Parents and Members of the Haldane Community.

In a recent letter we shared information regarding the evolution of our safety changes within the Haldane School District over the past few years. We have made a concerted effort to provide a safe environment for our students by implementing a number of changes and adding safety equipment to all student-occupied buildings on campus. Three years ago, we staffed all entrance areas within our district and joined in a partnership with the Putnam County Sheriff's Department to hire a School Resource Officer (SRO) for our campus. We continually refine safety and security procedures and work closely with first responders and security experts to improve the procedures and protocols within our safety plans. Our District's Safety Committee, which includes members of the Cold Spring Police Department, the Putnam County Sheriff's Department, administrators, teachers, and parents, meets regularly to review best practices and implement changes as needed. Prior to that, the District upgraded many of the safety systems in the buildings that are still active today as the result of a Bond Referendum that went to the Community for a vote in the spring of 2014.

Our SRO, Deputy Matthew Shelters, works alongside of our principals, teachers and students to train our School Community on safety practices and strategies. Our schools conduct regular drills, including four Lock-down Drills annually, so all members of the Haldane Family know what to do in an emergency situation. We will continue this practice to keep our students current on our safety protocols.

Over the past week, we have once again reviewed our safety protocols and have decided to revisit this important conversation while we enhance the safety precautions of the District. Some of the changes will be immediate while others will require planning and a schedule of implementation.

As of Thursday, February 22nd, **all** external doors of the elementary, middle, and high school buildings will be locked throughout the school day. Visitors will be granted access after ringing the bells in the entranceway and stating their purpose. Visitors may be asked to show identification upon entrance. In the near future we will be scanning driver's licenses to keep an accurate accounting of our daily visitors.

We understand that this may take a bit more time and will take some getting used to, however, we believe that this is the correct next step in our progression for the safest Haldane.

If you are available, we would like to invite you to attend a number of meetings in the near future regarding safety. We hope to hear your thoughts and answer questions that you may have. The first meeting, our Safety Committee Meeting, will take place Monday, February 26, 2018 @ 3:15 in the MS/HS Library. The PTA will also be hosting two Coffees on Thursday, March 1st @ 9:00am and another at 6:00pm in the MS/HS Library, with safety as the primary topic. Please feel free to join us. We hope to see you there.

Sincerely,



Diana Bowers, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools