February 16, 2018

Dear Marple Newtown Families,

We are saddened by the recent tragedy that occurred at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida. Their loss is unimaginable. Their entire community is in our thoughts. With the continued assaults upon our children, districts must continually evaluate how they prepare students, staff and parents to better prevent such acts.

The Marple Newtown School District and its Board of School Directors have made safety and security a top priority. The district has worked closely with law enforcement agencies and had contracted with a school security firm to develop plans and training programs for students and staff. Marple Newtown has taken action to secure our buildings and to improve the safety and security protocols that we follow.

The list below outlines a few of the actions we have taken to increase the safety of our schools:

- Scheduled practice drills for fire, weather, lockdown, and evacuation.
- Designed Reunification plans for each school
- Enacted a Central Office Crisis plan to support schools in crisis.
- Built capture systems in each of our schools
- Mounted district-wide cameras in each school for surveillance inside and outside of the buildings
- Installed security kiosks at all school locations
- Updated Safety Plans accessible to local fire, police and staff.
- Invited Police and Fire Chiefs to district safety meetings
- Invited Police to patrol at our buildings on a regular basis
- Communicated to students that they may anonymously refer a friend to the Student Assistance Team (Secondary level)
- Informed Students K-12 that if they hear or see something of a concern to report it to either a parent, teacher, counselor or administrator.

We have attached our reunification letter that outlines the procedures to reunite parents with their children following a crisis at their school. The district will continue its efforts to continuously review our plans in order to remain vigilant in the safety of students and staff.

If you have any questions or concerns about the district’s safety programs and protocols, please contact either your child’s Principal, the assistant superintendent, or me.

Regards,

Joseph Driscoll    Dr. Constance Bompadre
Substitute Superintendent   Assistant Superintendent
610-359-4266                                                              610-359-4284
jdriscoll@mnsd.org                                                               cbompadre@mnsd.org
Dear Parents and Guardians,

Our schools have made many preparations to address various emergency situations that could occur in or around our schools, both during the school day and during after-hours activities. While we hope that a serious incident never occurs, our goal is to be prepared for any potential emergency. At all times, our first priority is to protect all students, staff, and other visitors from harm.

In order for our emergency response plans to be effective, we depend on the cooperation and assistance of many people, such as the police and the fire department. We also depend on you, as parents and guardians, to support our disaster preparation and response efforts. Your cooperation is vital to helping us protect the safety and welfare of all children and school employees. Therefore, we ask parents to observe the following procedures in the event of a school emergency.

1. **Please make sure that each school has current emergency contact information for each of your children.** Each school must be able to contact you or your designated representative in an emergency.

2. **Please visit the MNSD website (www.mnsd.org) for emergency announcements and status reports.**

3. **Please follow all instructions that you receive through the Infinite Campus automated phone call** (similar to the way you are notified of school closing information for inclement weather). **The district will also send information through Twitter.** Please follow us @ marplenewtownsd

   Our school emergency plans include evacuation procedures with several alternative relocation destinations. When appropriate and safe, students will be released to their parents/guardians from these shelter locations.

   Under those circumstances, each school will be prepared to implement procedures for confirming the identity of individuals who arrive to pick up each child.

   When arriving to pick up your children, please make sure you have a government-issued photo ID.

4. **Please do not come to the school or alternate location until instructed to do so.**

   It may be necessary to keep the streets and parking lots clear for emergency vehicles.
If evacuation is required, students may be transported to a location away from the school. You will be notified of this through the Infinite Campus automated call and through Twitter.

5. **Please talk to your child(ren) and emphasize how important it is for them to follow instructions from their teachers and school officials during any emergency.**

7. **Please read all information that you receive from the school.** You may receive updates about safety procedures from time to time.

During an emergency, it is imperative that parents and other adults remain calm and focused, mindful that their actions and comments will be the example that, to a great extent, determines the children’s response. We must work together. If we all follow the procedures outlined during an emergency, then school officials can reunify each child with their parent or guardian as quickly and safely as possible.

We appreciate your cooperation and support. If you have any questions about our district safety procedures, please contact me 610-359-4264. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Constance E. Bompadre, Ed.D.
*Assistant Superintendent*

MNSD Administrative Team