
Stillwater

Central School District

Dr. Stanley Maziejka, Superintendent of Schools

Dear Parent/Guardian:

We continue to be shocked and saddened as details from the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut unfold. Our hearts go out to the families, staff and community members impacted by this horrific loss.

If you feel your child is having a hard time coping with this tragedy, our school counseling staff members are prepared to provide the necessary support to help them. Also, please feel free to visit our school district website at www.scsd.org to find resources to support speaking with children about this tragedy.

At this time, you may have questions about the safety and security of our district school buildings. I want you to be assured that Stillwater Central School District remains vigilant in its commitment to safety. We have put a variety of measures and programs in place over the years to ensure the safety of our school buildings and to respond to emergencies. On a daily basis, all of our schools operate on a modified "lockout" whereby all doors are always locked and there is only one way in and out of every building. Every building entrance is staffed and requires visitors to sign in and out.

All faculty and staff are trained and participate in regular drills that include various scenarios and emergency responses such as lockdown, lockout, freeze the schedule as well as fire and evacuation. Faculty and staff all have laminated Emergency Quick Response Cards at their reach, as a resource in the event of an emergency. We also have a comprehensive District-wide Emergency Response Plan that includes building specific emergency plans. It was developed by our District Emergency Response Team in partnership with the Stillwater Community Emergency Planning Committee. In addition, we held a Safety Awareness Night back in October for parents.

When a tragedy like this occurs, it reminds us to again review the policies and procedures we have in place and learn what we can from the incident. I have asked that our District Emergency Response Team meet again this week to review our overall safety plans and procedures.

On a final note, I would ask that you take the time to discuss with your child the responsibility of letting others (parents, teachers, administrators and/or law enforcement) know of any potential concerns or threats they may hear of. This is never easy for students, however, it is probably one of the best sources of information to help maintain a safe learning environment.

We will never forget this senseless tragedy. Together, we will continue to do everything we can to keep our children safe so that they may learn and play, think and dream.

Thank you for your cooperation.

