

April 17, 2018



Lake County School District
Learning Beyond Walls

Dear LCSD Parents:

Hello and happy spring! One of the things we have continued to prioritize this year is school safety. Through our partnerships with the Lake County Office of Emergency Management, Leadville Police Department and Lake County Sheriff's Office, we continue to improve our preparedness and practices. Our community school safety forum on April 4th drew a crowd, with an audience in person and on Facebook. We appreciate all of the parents who listened in to learn more about our work in this area; the video of the event is available on our Facebook page.

LCHS Evacuation Drill Next Week

Several months ago, we began working with our law enforcement partners to plan a large-scale evacuation drill that will take place at Lake County High School the afternoon of Wednesday, April 25. We want to share some information about the drill with all district families so that you understand our plan and our purpose.

What will happen on April 25?: High School

Starting at about 1:15pm, students and staff at Lake County High School will participate in a normal lockdown drill, their final one of the year. After the lockdown, students and staff will also practice an evacuation drill. With the support of law enforcement and school administration, students and staff will proceed with their crews in an orderly fashion to the evacuation location. They will then return to the high school and debrief the exercise with their crews. The drill will be complete by 3:35pm in time for normal dismissal.

Because in a real event we would have the involvement of many different agencies, these agencies are also participating in the drill. Members of the police department, sheriff's office, emergency management team and public health will all be part of the drill. We will also have the participation of first responders from surrounding counties. Again, the purpose of this is to allow us to practice together and improve our plans. If you are in the neighborhood of the high school between 1-3:30pm, you will see a large law enforcement presence; please be assured that they are merely there to assist with the drill.

Because students need to be engaged in the entire drill, we will not be releasing high school students between 1-3:35pm on April 25th. Please plan ahead. We will have specific instructions for students who will be off-site at CMC for college classes during this time. We will also have mental health support staff available for any student who needs it before, during and after the drill.

What will happen on April 25?: Other Schools

Other schools in LCSD will have a very normal day on April 25. The only change to their schedule is that the schools will be on a soft lockout during the high school drill. This is an opportunity to practice a procedure that would likely be in place during a real event. This means that there will be no outdoor recess between 1:15-3:30pm. Parents will be able to come to these schools to pick students up as necessary during this time. Instruction will continue as normal within the school buildings according to the daily schedule.

Why are we doing this?

Evacuating a school is a complex undertaking, and we will be more prepared for an actual event if we practice it. We have practiced evacuation in the past at some of our other schools, and we are now ready to practice it at the high school. This drill also gives us a chance to work with our partner agencies in law enforcement to improve our practices.

Do I need to talk to my student(s) about this drill?

We will be training all high school students on what they need to know this week during Community Meetings. PK-6th grade students will not be impacted by the drill other than staying inside during the afternoon; while you are of course welcome to talk to younger students about it, we do not anticipate that they will need any preparation given the very minor impact. Schools will be prepared to answer any questions that come up the day of the drill.

Please contact any of us if you have questions about the drill planned for April 25. We appreciate your support in our efforts to keep our schools safe.

Sincerely,

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