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TIM CARR
Secondary Principal
SADIE HOUCK
Elementary Principal



Heartland Community Schools

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March 20, 2018

Dear Parents,

Keeping our children safe at school has always been a top priority for us. We have attempted to implement various degrees of safety protocols over the years to help maintain a safe environment, such as response procedures and by securing the building with secured and monitored entrances. We are always looking for ways to improve and remain thoughtful in this process.

The Nebraska Department of Education has adopted a Safety Response Protocol (SRP) that they would like implemented across the state. This set of notifications and procedures would be consistent from school to school so that our children would know what to do regardless of what activity they may be attending. The protocol has been under development since 2009 and has been regarded as one of the best currently available.

This set of responses demands a specific vocabulary but also allows for great flexibility. The premise is simple - there are four specific actions that can be performed during any incident. Execution of the action is performed by active participants, including students, staff, teachers and first responders.

- Lockout is followed by the Directive: "Secure the Perimeter" and is the protocol used to safeguard students and staff within the building.
- Lockdown is followed by "Locks, Lights, Out of Sight" and is the protocol used to secure individual rooms and keep students quiet and in place.
- Evacuate is always followed by a location, and is used to move students and staff from one location to a different location in or out of the building.
- Shelter is always followed by a type and a method and is the protocol for group and self protection, such as during a tornado warning.

We will begin training for all of our students regarding this set of responses beginning next week. We want to give all of you the opportunity to learn more, as well. **We will be hosting a parent informational meeting in the high school theater at 7:30 PM on Tuesday, March 27th.** The meeting should only take about 45 minutes. You can also find additional information online at: iloveyouguys.org.

We hope to see you on the 27th and please give us a call with any questions prior to the meeting.

Sincerely,

Brad Best, Superintendent of Schools