

# DUNKLIN R-V SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Debbie Killingsworth  
Assistant Principal  
Pevely Elementary

Tom Moreland  
Director of Special Services

Christa Weber  
Director  
Taylor Early Childhood

September 23, 2014

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The Dunklin R-V School District is committed to providing the safest possible environment for our students. Over the last few years, we have taken several steps in increasing the security of our school buildings, including locking our exterior doors during school hours, installing monitored entry systems, installing security cameras, and adding a school resource officer with a plan for a second officer.

No matter what proactive measures we take, we have to be as prepared as possible to deal with an armed intruder in our schools. In the past, most schools have used a method called "lockdown". A lockdown alert is given and the teacher locks the classroom door, turns out the lights and instructs students to move from view of the door and remain quiet. Because of research of the tragic events that have taken place in other schools across the country in recent years, we now know that lockdown alone is not enough.

The staff of the Dunklin R-V School District, in conjunction with representatives of several local law enforcement agencies, have been trained in the procedures that leading experts believe will increase the chance of survival in the event that our preventative methods are not enough and we were to have an active shooter in one of our schools. These procedures include:

- ✓ Alerting students and staff of the SPECIFIC danger- no longer just a general "lockdown" alert if there is an active shooter. We will use our intercom and surveillance equipment to alert them of where the person is. If possible and depending on their location in relation to the shooter, staff and students will then immediately evacuate the building. This communication will be continuous during the event if possible to allow staff and students to be informed and make decisions.
- ✓ If students are in the same area of the building as the shooter, lockdown will still be utilized.
- ✓ Utilizing confusion or counter techniques if an active shooter enters their classroom rather than hiding under a desk.
- ✓ Evacuation to a secure rendezvous point.

In the coming weeks, we will be training our students and having drills on these new procedures. What this training will look like for your child will depend on their age and grade level. For our very young students, we will focus on "stranger danger" verbiage and practice evacuating to a safe place. For older students, we will focus more on what they can do to increase their chances of surviving if an active shooter is directly threatening them. We encourage you to talk to your children about this topic and to communicate any questions or concerns that you may have with your child's building administration.

Respectfully,

Stan Stratton  
Superintendent

## Mission Statement

"Educating today for a better tomorrow"