

# Upper Dauphin Area School District

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September 19, 2019

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

The Upper Dauphin Area School District is committed to the safety of your children. As such, from time to time we schedule drills and exercises to practice for emergencies. At some time prior to the end of November, the School District will be conducting an exercise related to an active assailant situation at its Loyaltown Campus (Middle School and Elementary School). This exercise will also briefly affect the High School Campus.

I realize that this topic is as distressing for parents and students as it is for school staff. However, these types of exercises are critical to ensure that both our students and staff react appropriately if an actual event were to occur. The exercise will occur in the morning hours and will not affect the length of the school day. The exercise will include students being loaded on busses and evacuated from the premises. They will be returned to the school shortly thereafter. Students will remain supervised throughout the exercise. Representatives from the Pennsylvania State Police, Reliance Hose Company, Liberty Hose Company, Wiconisco Fire Company, UPMC Pinnacle Life Team, Dauphin County Department of Public Safety, Dauphin County Joint School Safety Task Force, Dauphin County Juvenile Probation, and Washington Township will be participating in the exercise.

After the conclusion of the exercise, teachers will take time to debrief students. We will do everything possible to reassure students that the chance of this type of event occurring is very unlikely and explain to them that the reason that we do these exercises is to help keep them safe. The best thing that you can do is to encourage your children to pay attention to and follow the instructions of school staff when emergency situations occur.

If you have questions regarding the emergency exercise, please contact your child's building principal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Evan P. Williams". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Evan P. Williams  
Superintendent