February 15, 2018

Dear Exploris Community,

School safety procedures and emergency preparedness are critical components to ensuring the safety of all students and staff in the event of any security incident, severe weather event, or crisis situation. The Exploris team has been updating our emergency procedures throughout the year and will be discussing our plans for practicing additional emergency drills during the teacher workday on Monday. The Exploris School will be highlighting school safety with students during the week of February 19, 2018 and conducting emergency drills. Teachers will be having conversations about school safety with their crews and explaining new drill procedures for a lockdown, shelter in place, and evacuation of the school.

During a lockdown, students will remain secure in their classroom with their teacher away from all windows and doors and remain silent. During a shelter in place students will remain secure in their classroom and instruction will continue. A shelter in place may be called if there is a medical emergency and we need to keep all hallways clear for paramedics. There may also be an emergency that would require us to evacuate from the school to our secure location off campus.

Partnering with families is important as we continue to improve our school safety and emergency preparedness. Please talk with your children and assure them that the safety drills are a precaution to ensure that we practice and prepare to keep everyone safe in the event of an emergency. Please remind your children that they should feel calm and safe and listen to their teacher’s directions.

If the school has a lockdown due to a threat inside the school or in the surrounding neighborhood we ask that parents do not enter the school. However, if parents are already at school during a safety drill or lockdown we ask that parents proceed to the nearest classroom and remain with the class until the announcement is made ending the lockdown.

The new One Call Emergency Alert system that we have been using this year for weather alerts will be used to notify parents if an event does occur at the school. It is important to make sure you update the school if you should change your phone or email address.

I hope that this information is helpful to families. Through our continued reflection and review of procedures we will continue to improve our safety and security preparedness to ensure the safety for all children and staff at The Exploris School.

Warmest regards,

Ellie