

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Because we live in challenging times, we have added a new chapter to our school safety and security plan. The “Crisis Prevention and Response Plan” was designed with the help of local law enforcement, emergency management, and public health officials. It is regularly reviewed and updated. The plan includes procedures and how to respond to critical incidents. Nitro Elementary School, along with other Kanawha County schools, will participate in a shelter-in-place drill. This is a tool used to protect students and staff members in the event of potential exposure to a hazardous chemical release to the atmosphere.

If a hazardous chemical were released in the community and posed a threat to students during the school day, we would be directed by Kanawha County Emergency Services/Metro 9-1-1 officials to bring all students and staff members indoors; including those in portables; to shut down all heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems; and to close and secure all doors and windows. The neutral atmospheric pressure created by these actions would create a barrier and help keep chemical agents from leaking into the building. For over 20 years, this has been proven to be a safe and effective approach to protecting people in the event of a chemical emergency.

Shelter in place may also be used in a number of scenarios including inclement weather (derecho or tornadic activity).

As with all emergency procedures, they must be regularly practiced to ensure their effectiveness in the event of an actual emergency.

Therefore on Thursday, September 15, 2016, Nitro Elementary School will participate in a shelter-in-place drill. The drill will begin at 9:00AM, at which time the school will be secured (doors will be locked) and no people will be allowed in or out of the building. All students and staff will be secured in their shelter-in-place area and will not be allowed out of the area until an “All Clear” signal is given.

The drill will last approximately 30 minutes, so if your child needs to be excused for an appointment (doctor, dentist, etc.) on the morning of the drill please make arrangements to pick them up prior to the start of the drill. Again, doors will be locked at 9:00AM and no one will be allowed in or out while the drill is in progress.

Kanawha County Schools continues to take proactive measures to protect the safety of all our students and staff members. We will continue to keep you informed of safety and security measures in place at Nitro Elementary School. If you have any questions, please call me at 304-755-2451. I appreciate your continued support in these matters.

Sincerely,
Maggie Holley
Principal, Nitro Elementary School