



Moniteau School District

Dassa McKinney Elementary School
391 Hooker Road
West Sunbury, PA 16061

Dustin M. Thompson
Principal

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Nicole A. Fox
Assistant Principal

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Dear Parents & Guardians,

Throughout the 2020-2021 school year, we will conduct several emergency drills with all Dassa McKinney Elementary School faculty, staff, and students. In addition to monthly fire drills and an annual weather emergency drill, the Pennsylvania Department of Education now requires all schools to conduct at least two intruder drills annually. These drills will provide opportunities for our Dassa Team to prepare, practice, and reflect upon our established procedures for responding to various emergency situations that may arise at school. In light of COVID-19 restrictions, drills will be conducted in a manner to allow social distancing and remain within the confines of participant limits for such activities.

Moniteau School District employees receive extensive and ongoing training for fire and weather emergency response, as well as school intruder training rooted in the ALiCE Active Shooter Response Training program. We will continue to be selective in how we engage students in conversation, training, and drills related to the ALiCE program, with great care given to the social and emotional developmental levels of our students. Individual classroom teachers will prepare their students for drills, stressing the importance of remaining quiet and listening for directions. Each classroom teacher will determine how in-depth they will discuss the topic of school intruders. This decision will be guided by integrating the knowledge that our teachers have gained through training and experience with their knowledge of the social and emotional development of their students.

As parents, you should expect to receive written communication from the school prior to major emergency drills, such as enhanced lockdown (barricade) drills, evacuation-on-foot drills, and evacuation-on-bus drills. We value the importance of families having an opportunity to discuss these drills in advance. Such drills will never occur unannounced. When appropriate, you should also expect to receive a mass notification message from our *Skylert* system following such drills.

With your support, and the cooperation of our students, these processes will help ensure that our school remains a safe place for students to learn and grow. If you have any questions regarding school safety, please do not hesitate to contact the Dassa McKinney Elementary School Office.

Sincerely,

Dustin M. Thompson
Principal

Nicole A. Fox
Assistant Principal