



## Talawanda High School: Annual Safety Drill Notification

At Talawanda High School, the safety and well-being of our students and staff are our top priority. To ensure that everyone is prepared for a variety of situations, we will, as required by the State of Ohio, conduct several safety drills throughout the school year. These drills include fire drills, soft and hard lockdowns, rapid evacuation procedures, tornado safety, and run/hide/fight (active intruder) drills.

Each drill is designed to prepare our school community for potential emergencies, ensuring that everyone knows how to respond quickly and effectively. We understand that some students may find these drills unsettling, but please know they are an important part of keeping our school safe.

Here's a brief overview of the key protocols we follow:

- **Run/Hide/Fight (Active Intruder) Protocol:** In the event of an immediate threat, students and staff follow the run, hide, fight protocol. These steps are posted in each classroom and reviewed annually.
- **Soft Lockdown:** Used as a precaution, oftentimes to keep hallways clear during a medical emergency. Doors are locked but instruction continues. Students simply remain in the room until given further direction.
- **Hard Lockdown:** Used for more serious threats. Doors are locked, lights are turned off, and students and staff stay silent and out of sight until the situation is resolved.
- **Tornado/Weather Alerts:** In severe weather situations, we move to designated interior areas away from glass. Students sit quietly along lockers and remain there until the all-clear is given.

## Communication During Drills

We want families to know what to expect when it comes to communication about safety drills. Routine drills are typically not announced ahead of time, and we do not communicate during or after them unless safety is impacted or instruction is significantly disrupted. When appropriate, we may share information through our school's social media, messaging system, or website. Decisions about how and what to communicate will be based on the considerations outlined above.

Please be assured that internal communication is always in place. We use our PA system and other in-school communication tools (email, etc) to make sure that all students and staff know what is happening and have the information they need. Our priority during any drill or emergency is to keep everyone informed on campus and to maintain a safe, calm environment.

We encourage families to talk with their students about these procedures at home and to reach out to administration or our School Resource Officer with any questions or concerns. Thank you for your continued support in keeping Talawanda High School a safe and secure place to learn!