



TEACHER GUIDANCE AFTER A LOCKDOWN DRILL

In 2010, Dr. David Benke tackled a gunman at Deer Creek Middle School in Littleton, Colorado. A 35 year veteran teacher, Dr. Benke offers his conversation with students after a Lockdown Drill. This is provided as guidance for for a conversation with students.

TALKING TO KIDS ABOUT THE SRP

There is a great deal of variation between elementary and high school. Elementary Students are much more willing to do what they are told. High school students always think they know better than adults. Perhaps with high school students our best goal is compliance rather than agreement.

BEFORE THE DRILL

This is important to insure that the drill is done well. Use the wall poster to get the conversation started.

IN AN EMERGENCY WHEN YOU HEAR IT. DO IT.
LOCKDOWN! LOCKS, LIGHTS, OUT OF SIGHT.

STUDENTS Move away from sight Maintain silence Do not open the door	TEACHER Lock interior doors Turn out the lights Move away from sight Do not open the door Maintain silence Take attendance
LOCKOUT! SECURE THE PERIMETER.	
STUDENTS Return inside Business as usual	TEACHER Bring everyone indoors Lock perimeter doors Increase situational awareness Business as usual Take attendance
EVACUATE! TO ANNOUNCED LOCATION.	
STUDENTS Bring your phone Leave your stuff behind Follow instructions	TEACHER Lead evacuation to location Take attendance Notify if missing, extra or injured students
SHELTER! HAZARD AND SAFETY STRATEGY.	
STUDENTS Hazard Safety Strategy Tornado Evacuate to shelter area Hazard Seal the room Earthquake Drop, cover and hold Tsunami Call to high ground	TEACHER Lead safety strategy Take attendance

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Emphasize that the rules; no phones, silence, lights out, out of sight, locked doors, are all absolutes. Talking, poking each other, texting, will all result in a trip to administration and a requirement to redo the drill during lunch or after school until it is done perfectly.

THIS IS SERIOUS.

You are drilling to save lives. A phrase I found useful is, "I'm

trying to keep you safe. I am not going to apologize for trying to save you.

Be sure the students know someone may come by to try the door. They are to maintain silence.

SAFE ZONE

Point out where the students are to sit and hide. Be sure to find an area that is not visible from a hall window. If a student can see out the hall window, a bad guy can see in.

Check the doors and windows to your room. Are they all lockable from the correct side? If they aren't, then submit an order to have the lock changed. I kept my door locked all the time. It took a year and three requests before we could get a lock changed. Be politely persistent.

DECIDE ON YOUR STATION IN THE ROOM.

Will you sit with the kids?

Will you station yourself in ambush with what ever improvised weapon you can find?

Play baseball during a free period with the kids once a year. It gives you an excuse to have a bat in your room.

AFTER THE DRILL

This is important for the students to do Scenario Based Thinking.

The first question is crucial. After the first one the students realize that it is really ok to ask and you will probably have to end the discussion after about 10 minutes when the "what ifs" start to become absurd.

Therefore you might want to prime the pump by asking. "How many of you wonder what would happen if you are... (in the hall, in the restroom, at lunch)?"

Remember they aren't, just, trying to get out of class. I know your subject is important. You wouldn't want to teach it otherwise. But you are giving a kid a skill that is important for her entire life.

WHAT IF I AM IN THE HALL?

We will check the halls quickly before we lock and turn the lights out. Get to a classroom, any classroom, as quickly as you can and lock down.

If the classroom is already locked and lights out then find a place to hide. Do not go from classroom to classroom. We will not open the door for anyone because that person could be held hostage. If someone has a legitimate need to get in the room that person will have a key.

Call on students and ask if they have a thought about where to hide if they are in the hall. Talk about the difference between cover and concealment.

WHAT IF I AM AT LUNCH?

The same procedure applies.

WHAT IF I AM IN THE RESTROOM?

The same procedure applies.

WHAT IF A BAD GUY COMES IN THE ROOM?

The kids should know to evacuate. Tell them which door and to where, preferably to another room to lock down. Decide what you are going to do because the next question will be, "Mrs. Faversham? What are you going to do?"

WHAT IF I AM OUTSIDE?

Go to (name your evacuation site). Ask if they know how to get there. Discuss how to get to the evacuation site the fastest way. Or get in the school, get in a classroom and lock down.

Let the cops do their job. If you need help go to a teacher.