September, XXXX

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

As part of our ongoing efforts to keep our community safe and in following the guidance from Vermont’s Agency of Education, Department of Public Safety, Vermont School Safety Center and the newly adopted school safety legislation (Act 29, Title 16 VSA, Section 1481), we will be practicing a variety of emergency preparedness exercises throughout the coming academic year. These exercises are designed to keep our community safe when responding to a critical incident. These drills include building evacuation drills or fire drills. During these drills, our aim is to empty the building of occupants as quickly as possible, and then account for every community members whereabouts. These drills usually take approximately 10 minutes with little impact on the academic day.

Another procedure we will be practicing this year is our options-based response to an active threat protocol, Run-Hide-Fight. This protocol empowers staff and students with response options during an active threat situation based on what they know about the situation. We will be conducting one options based drill in the fall and one options based drill in the spring. Each options-based drill will be announced to the parent/guardian community no later than one day prior to the drill being conducted. School violence is not something anyone wants to think about, but we must do the best we can to be prepared for as many different emergencies or potentially unsafe scenarios as possible. Thank you for your support in this effort.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

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