

HOLLAND TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

Mrs. Stephanie Snyder, Superintendent & Supervisor of Special Services
Mrs. Susan Wardell, Principal/Curriculum & 504 Coordinator

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Dear Parents:

The safety of your children is of paramount concern to school districts and law enforcement officers. Due to events such as Columbine, Sandy Hook, Lancaster, and several others, school districts and law enforcement have been diligent in training in how to respond to these incidents. You as parents have unfortunately become all too familiar with the terms *Lockdown* and *Hold* formally *Shelter in Place*.

A *Lockdown* is primarily used when there is an imminent threat in the school or on school property. School staff and students practice these procedures on a regular basis and have become very proficient in its implementation. These procedures greatly reduce or in a best case scenario, eliminate potentials victims.

A *Hold* is instituted for various reasons and not always emergent in nature. It can be used for something as simple as a bear spotted on school property, police activity in close proximity to but, with no immediate threat to the school, hazardous weather conditions, etc. It generally restricts all outside activities. During a *Hold*, classes continue as normal but no one is supposed to enter or leave the building. There are however circumstances when access and egress could be allowed on a limited basis provided that law enforcement and school administrators agree that it would not pose a danger to staff or students.

These procedures are designed to keep your children as safe as possible. As parents we understand your desire to respond to the school to ensure your child's safety, but *please understand that coming to the school could actually endanger your child* and hinder the law enforcement response. Therefore, if you become aware of a *Lockdown*, *Hold* or other safety action at your child's school, we ask that you refrain from responding to or calling the school until you are notified that the situation is under control. We also ask that you do not call your child's cell phone as in a *Lockdown* situation this could give away their location. These situations can be very fluid and information early on can be sketchy. We will release accurate information as soon as it is practical.

Once again, your cooperation with school officials and law enforcement is essential to your child's safety.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Snyder
Superintendent

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