



# WRENTHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Safety Parent Meeting

April 5, 2018

SRO Steve Hearon & Superintendent Allan Cameron

# AGENDA

Emergency prevention.

- Positive school culture, social/emotional support, anti-bullying.

Emergency response protocols.

- Evacuation, Shelter in Place, Active Intruder.

Opioid addiction, recreational marijuana, and vaping.

What schools and parents can do to help keep students safe.

Allan's and Steve's contact information for questions or comments.

# BUILDING A POSITIVE CULTURE

The best way to keep schools safe is to have positive relationships among students, staff members, and students families.

- Social-Emotional Learning Committee.
- Social Competency/Responsive Classroom.
- School Counselors and Psychologists.
- Tiered Academic Support.
- Therapy Dog (Berklee).
- Bully and Cyber-Bully Prevention and Response.
- Family Events.
- DARE, School Resource Officer, and Health Class.

# PROTECTING THE SAFE ENVIRONMENT

## Steps to make Delaney and Roderick “hard-targets”.

- All exterior doors locked during school day.
- Emergency buttons to immediately contact police.
- All phones can dial 911.
- Radio communication used throughout the district.
- Locked classroom doors – mechanical and physical.
- Cameras located throughout the district/school buses.
- Visible police presence.
- Emergency Response Committee.
- Training/information for faculty and staff members and students.

# WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO PREPARE FOR EMERGENCIES?

- Emergencies are very rare, but they are scary.
- Students follow the examples and directions of adults.
- The more we prepare, the more confident we will be.
- Preparation and judgment will help us to make the best decisions.
- There is no perfect response to any emergency.

# THREE EMERGENCY RESPONSES

**Anyone** may trigger any emergency response

- Evacuation: Leave the building.
- Stay in Place: Clear hallways but teaching continues in classrooms.
- Active Intruder: Teachers make decisions about how to respond based on the circumstances.

# EVACUATION

Reasons: Fire, gas leak.

Trigger: Fire alarm or “Evacuate the building.”

1. Exit the building - Leave personal items, shut door, turn off lights.
2. Report to assigned location.
3. Take attendance and report to liaisons, who report to principal.
4. Sweepers take extra students to principal.
5. If necessary to remain out of the building, walk to St. Mary’s Church.

# STAY IN PLACE

Reasons: Medical emergency, skunk in the hallway.

Trigger: "Stay in place" or you see a reason to keep hallways clear.

1. Welcome students and staff members into your classroom.
2. Close the door and keep people in the classroom.
3. Take attendance.
  - Contact office to report missing/extra students and staff members.
4. Bring students in from recess if emergency vehicles are arriving.
5. Continue usual routine.
6. Contact the office if there is a problem.

# ACTIVE INTRUDER

Reason: Someone in the building attempting to harm people.

Triggers: "Active intruder" or you see or hear something dangerous.

1. Listen to the PA for details about the nature and location of the threat.
2. Teachers and staff members decide how to proceed:
  - Observe the surroundings.
  - Decide on a course of action.
    - Evacuate the building and move to St. Mary's Church.
    - Shelter in the classroom and barricade the door.
3. Act.

# SUMMARY

- We prepare for emergencies so we are ready to make the best decisions we can in the situation.
- Evacuation: Fire, gas leak.
- Stay in Place: Medical emergency, skunk in the building.
- Active Intruder: Use the information you have to evacuate to St. Mary's Church or lock and barricade the door.
- *The best way to improve school safety is building a positive and trusting school culture.*

# OPIOID ADDICTION IN MASSACHUSETTS

We do not have a problem with opioid addiction in our schools.

However, opioid-related overdoses and deaths are epidemic in MA:

- Among the highest in the country.
- 35% increase in opioid-related deaths from 2014-2015.
- Young people at greatest risk.
  - 25% of all fatalities 18-24 year olds due to opioids.
  - 33% of all fatalities 25-34 year olds due to opioids.

# WHAT ARE OPIOIDS?

Opioids are a class of drugs used to reduce pain.

- Medicinal opioids by prescription.
  - OxyContin, Vicodin, Fentanyl, and Morphine.
- Illegal opioids.
  - Heroin.
  - Non-prescribed medicinal opioids.

**BOTH prescription and illegal opioids are being abused.**

# HOW DO PEOPLE BECOME ADDICTED?

Often:

1. Someone receives a prescription for an opioid pain reliever.
2. The person takes the prescription pain reliever and becomes addicted.
3. The person tries to get more of the pain reliever from a prescriber. When that becomes unavailable, the person buys illegal pills.
4. The person realizes heroin is more cost effective and switches.
5. Often, the person commits other crimes to support the habit.

# MARIJUANA AND VAPING

We do not have a marijuana or vaping problem in our schools.

However, Massachusetts voters approved recreational marijuana, and vaping is popular with teens.

- If 21 years old or older, may possess up to 1 ounce outside of the home and 10 ounces at home.
- May not smoke marijuana in public or where smoking is illegal.
- May not possess any amount of marijuana on school grounds.

Edible marijuana is of particular concern to children.

# MARIJUANA EDIBLES



# SUMMARY

- WPS does not have a problem with opioids, marijuana, or vaping.
- Opioid addiction is epidemic in our area.
- Legal marijuana is coming to MA (not allowed at school).
- WPS is teaching all students in age-appropriate manner about healthy decision making and the dangers of smoking, drugs, and alcohol.
- Parents can help by talking with children about healthy decisions and the dangers of drugs and vaping.
- <http://www.drugfree.org/the-parent-toolkit/>

# WHAT CAN PARENTS DO TO HELP?

- Talk with you children about the importance of being kind.
- Notify a teacher, guidance counselor, or principal if concerned.
- Remind children that schools are safe and we practice to stay safe.
- Avoid using, keeping, and giving children prescription opioids.
- Talk with you children about the dangers of vaping, drugs and alcohol.
- Check your children for inappropriate items.
- Contact the school if you have questions or need help.

# CONTACT INFORMATION FOR QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

School Resource Officer Steve Hearon

- 508-384-2121 (non-emergency)
- [Hearon@police.wrentham.ma.us](mailto:Hearon@police.wrentham.ma.us)

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