

October is safety month in our district. During this month, our schools will practice safety drills that are crucial for preparing us for potential crisis events. This month is an opportunity for staff and students to test our emergency response actions and make improvements.

We know some of these drills may be unsettling for parents and students. Please know that we approach our practices with sensitivity and age-appropriate activities. In these uncertain times, it is imperative that our students and staff members know what to do to keep themselves and others safe.

During this month, practices to be held:

- Fire drill: Monthly.
We practice how a building would be evacuated in the event of a fire or other emergencies, and how students are accounted for.
- Earthquake drill: Annual. To be held the week of October 14.
Students and staff members practice strategies for evacuation, accounting for students, parent-student reunification, search and rescue techniques, first aid, and school operations without power, food or water.
- Active shooter/dangerous intruder practice: Annual in October.
We practice what to do in the event of a dangerous intruder or similar event on campus.
 - For elementary schools, a video will be shown sometime during the week of October 21. Classes will view the “dangerous intruder” video that encourages children to stay calm, listen to trusted adults and stick to the plan. You may preview the video at www.mvwsd.org/safety.
 - For middle schools, dates in October vary by school site. Your school will be sending more information.
Middle school students learn what they should do in the event of an active shooter from a presentation and by participating in a drill several days later. The training is held in conjunction with the Mountain View Police Department and is aligned with the protocol recommended by the Santa Clara County Police Chiefs’ Association.
 - For information about how parents can talk with their children about school violence, please see these resources:
[Talking to Children About Violence: Tips for Parents and Teachers](#)
[Talking to your children about lockdown drills](#)

While talking about and practicing for events like this is uncomfortable, we believe that if students know what to do, they will feel more confident, and ultimately be better equipped to react with safety in mind. If you have concerns or questions specific to your child, please contact your principal.

Safety month is part of a much larger effort by MVWSD as it continues to work to ensure the safety of its students and staff members on its campuses. To learn more about preparation, planning and current District work on school safety, please visit www.mvwsd.org/safety.

We appreciate your support of these efforts to ensure our students’ safety.