

Kittery

School District

Truth & Knowledge

*Horace Mitchell Primary School
Shapleigh School
R.W. Traip Academy*

200 Rogers Road
Kittery, Maine 03904
Fax (207) 439-5407
www.kitteryschools.com

Eric F. Waddell

Superintendent of Schools
ewaddell@kitteryschools.com
(207) 475-1334

Marilyn P. Woodside

*Director of Curriculum &
Instruction/Tech. Director*
mwoodside@kitteryschools.com
(207) 475-1335

Jane E. Durgin

Director of Special Services
jdurgin@kitteryschools.com
(207) 475-1331

Lisa Harkin

Accounting Manager
lharkin@kitteryschools.com
(207) 475-1327

Lauren A. Lawson

Human Resource Manager
llawson@kitteryschools.com
(207) 475-1338

Good morning!

Just a quick note to let you know that we conducted three evacuation drills (we used to call them 'fire drills') at our three schools this morning. These drills were executed in tandem with the Kittery Police Department.

I am proud to say that all three drills were conducted flawlessly. Our students and staff took the drills VERY seriously. All students and staff evacuated the buildings quickly and safely without incident. Within seconds, all students and staff were accounted for, and everyone returned to their classrooms with very little lost time (I must add, however, that the spectacular autumn weather this morning made the return to classrooms a little more challenging.

We in the Kittery School District make the safety of our students and staff an absolute priority. We will be conducting lockdown drills (very soon) to ensure that our students and staff are familiar with this important process as well. All three of our schools are designed with a double locking door system. Visitors must be buzzed in, not once but twice, in order to enter the main building. We are welcoming to guests and visitors, but we are also extremely careful about who we allow to enter our schools while they are in session.

All of our schools' classrooms and offices are equipped with barricading devices which are engaged by adults in seconds, providing another layer of security. I am not aware of any other school district in Maine that can espouse that same level of safety and security. However, we also want to be prepared in the highly unlikely event that someone enters our buildings with the intent to cause harm.

Because of that, the Kittery School District has partnered with York County Emergency Management Agency to participate in a tabletop crisis exercise later in October. The exercise will ensure that the Kittery School District's emergency management plan is effectively designed and that we know how we will interface with other local and regional agencies (police, fire, FBI, etc.) if we are faced with a threatening situation.

I know we don't like the idea of school violence, and we are so very fortunate to live in such a safe and beautiful town. However, hoping for the best but preparing for the worst is what we must do in the Kittery School District to ensure that we are doing everything possible to maintain a safe school environment for all.

Thank you for your continued support. I hope you agree that we have a great School District here in Kittery, Maine.

Sincerely,

Eric Waddell, Superintendent of Schools