

Newton Public Schools



NEWTON SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL

140 Brandeis Road, Newton Centre, MA 02459 | 617-559-6500

Dear Newton South Families,

As we begin our second term of the year, I want to share with you plans for our upcoming SAFETY DAY on November 19th. As we have in years past, we will be coordinating this day with our partners in the Newton Police Department.

You may have read in the Superintendent's Newsletter (found [here](#)), all Newton Public Schools have updated and enhanced our safety procedures. The South Safety Day will give us the opportunity to introduce, discuss, and practice these new protocols. On the 19th, we will hold an extended homeroom in which students and teachers will review and practice the four safety responses outlined in our district's response plan.

The updated plan includes a new response labeled "hostile event," which is when there is an active shooter or other act of violence occurring in the building. This is an "options-based" response in which students and teachers evaluate the situation and respond in the way they determine is the safest course of action. While we use the phrase "run, hide, fight" to summarize what to do in a hostile event response, we will actually discuss and practice a range of options, including quickly exiting the building, using traditional lockdown responses, and barricading a classroom door. Fighting, of course, is always a last resort.

While we must practice and prepare for an emergency, the work we do daily to build relationships and strong school connections is our best defense against a tragedy occurring in our school. We know that schools are safer when students feel connected and trust adults in the building. At South, we pride ourselves on the very strong positive relationships we have cultivated between students and staff and we will continue to do this work every day.

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's participation, please contact your child's Dean and/or guidance counselor.

Thank you for your partnership.

Joel Stembridge
Principal, Newton South High School