



Saint Pius X Catholic School

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January 12, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians:

In our continued efforts to maintain safety in our schools, the Diocesan Safety Committee has mandated all Diocesan schools provide lessons to students that involve a protocol for responding during an emergency situation. The instruction that students will be receiving will focus on options that students and teachers have in the event of an active-shooter or intruder in the building. The *Run, Hide, Fight* protocol is recommended by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the U.S. Department of Justice, the International Chiefs of Police, the Indiana State Police, and the Diocesan Safety Committee. *Run, Hide, Fight* protocol will be modified for students based on age and will be presented in an age-appropriate manner.

In addition to the *Run, Hide, Fight* protocol, students will be learning about the *Standard Response Protocol* (SRP). This is a national system of common vocabulary, which is used in the event of an emergency. The SRP is used in all schools in our Ft. Wayne – South Bend Diocese. A copy of the SRP is provided with this email.

Finally, a school-wide “lockdown” drill will be conducted on Thursday, January 12, 2017 in all Catholic schools in the Diocese.

Preparing our students for real and present dangers is basic, fundamental education. Different times, different circumstances, and different dangers require that we prepare students in different ways. Nobody wants to contemplate something bad happening in our schools, but through responsible planning and training, we are able to respond to a crisis in order to better protect ourselves, and those around us.

Safety depends on our ability, our determination, and our commitment to make emergency preparedness a priority. We encourage you to engage in discussions with your child about school and community safety in an effort to be prepared to act in the event of an emergency.

Thank you for supporting our safety initiatives.

Sincerely,

Elaine Holmes, Principal