

# *Wynantskill Union Free School District*

*25 East Avenue, Troy, NY 12180  
Phone: (518)283 4679 x14 Fax: (518)283-3799*

*Superintendent of Schools*

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October 4, 2016

Dear Gardner-Dickinson families,

I am writing to let you know that we held a lockdown drill this morning. Please know this drill was completely precautionary and an opportunity to practice keeping our students safe in the event of an emergency.

New York State changed its requirements for drills this year. In the past, we were required to hold 12 fire drills each year. Starting this year, we must hold eight fire drills along with four lockdown drills. While the district has regularly practiced lockdown drills in the past, this year New York State has begun mandating them.

At times, these drills are run in conjunction with our local emergency response teams, such as this morning when the North Greenbush Police Department assisted us. This helps ensure law enforcement and emergency responders are familiar with our buildings and procedures in the event of a real emergency and has helped us build great relationships with these teams. These drills are often announced to our staff so they are not alarmed when they are called. Our employees make it clear to everyone in our building that it is only a drill to ease any possible concerns.

These drills provide us with useful information in how we design our School Safety Plans. We have a committee that regularly reviews our procedures to help ensure we are providing the safest building we can for our students and staff.

If you have any questions about drills or school safety, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Dr. Thomas Reardon  
Superintendent  
283-4600 ext. 14