



BRISTOL* LINCOLN * MONKTON * NEW HAVEN * STARKSBORO

Mount Abraham Unified School District
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Shaping Our Future Together

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As part of our ongoing efforts to keep our learning community safe, this year MAUSD will be adopting a new protocol for responding to an active threat in our schools. At the recommendation of the Vermont School Safety Center, Vermont Agency of Education, Vermont Department of Public Safety and the U.S Department of Homeland Security, we will begin the transition to what is known as an “options based” response protocol for addressing the unlikely event of an active threat in our schools. An options-based protocol empowers people to choose a response to an active threat situation based on the information they have in the moment, known as situational awareness. It teaches individuals to use the information at their disposal to do what they think is best to keep themselves and others safe.

In a few weeks, our students will be learning about the options based protocol, “Run / Hide / Fight”. The training, which will occur mid March through April, will consist of facilitated group discussions about the protocol and how to apply it to various scenarios. We feel strongly that while older students are aware of the possibility of school violence and can benefit from this training as an important life skill, younger students need only be instructed - as they are now - to follow the direction of their teacher as quickly and quietly as possible. This instruction will be done through grade appropriate instruction with their teacher, guidance counselor, and principal. Grades 7 - 12 will be done through the advisory program.

MAUSD will be hosting a virtual informational session for parents on Monday February 27th at 6pm. You can access the link to the meeting [here](#). The passcode is MAUSD. Our MAUSD safety coordinator, Matt Tatro, will provide an overview of the program and answer any questions you may have prior to introducing this to students. You will also be able to find information about the Run/Hide/Fight program and the virtual information session on our district safety website at: <https://sites.google.com/a/mausd.org/mausd-district-safety/> . You can also link to the site from the MAUSD website under families and community, then under school safety.

School violence is not something anyone wants to think about, but in today’s world we must do the best we can to be prepared. Thank you for your support in this effort!

Respectfully,

Patrick J. Reen
Superintendent