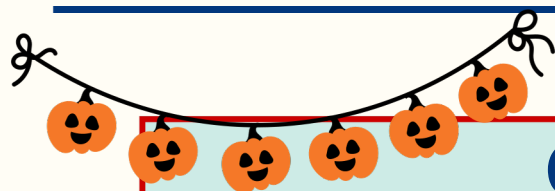


The Liberty Lantern

OCTOBER
2026



Office Personnel:

Principal: Shane Street

Assistant Principal: Ed Lesniak

Administrative Assistant: Leah Hundley

Administrative Assistant: Deanna Agnos

School Office Hours: 7:00am – 3:55pm

Telephone Number: 815-462-7951

[LibertyJrHighWebsite Link](#)

From the Main Office:

The first month and a half of the year has flown by and it has been a great start to the school year. Midterm day is this Friday, October 2nd, and parents/guardians are encouraged to check PowerSchool if they have not yet done so as all grades were updated. Please contact the office if you'd like a paper copy of midterm grades sent home. Our baseball, softball, and golf teams enjoyed fantastic seasons this fall. Thank you to all involved in representing Liberty so very, very well. Students are working hard in the classrooms and this year is shaping up to be a great year.

Shane Street
Principal

Ed Lesniak
Assistant Principal

Important Dates

- **Oct. 1 ~ Lockdown Drill**
- **Oct. 20 ~ Fire Drill**
- **Oct. 9-11~ Washington DC Trip**
- **Oct. 12 ~ Holiday No School**
- **Oct. 20 ~ Board Meeting 6:00pm**
- **Oct. 28 ~ 8th Grade PreACT Test**
- **Oct. 30 ~ Early Dismissal 11:25am**

NEWS

you can use.

Staff Emails:

For the most non-urgent matters, emailing is the best way to contact a teacher. Please use the first initial of the first name and the full last name @nlsd122.org
EX: John Smith jsmith@nlsd122.org



Student iPads...

All students are issued a NLSD 122 iPad and are expected to have this with them for all classes and to bring it home each night. Bringing a fully charged iPad to class each day is essential for maximizing learning opportunities and ensuring seamless participation in digital activities. A dead battery can hinder learning, disrupt the classroom and put students at a disadvantage. Please assist your child with creating a routine that ensures they have a fully charged iPad to start each and every day of school.

School Lunch:

The school lunch order link is sent out by district office every other week to the parent/guardian email listed in PowerSchool. Please place your order by the deadline in order to ensure your child will receive lunch. You can find more information on the lunch program here: [Lunch Program](#)

Lunch Times

7th Grade	8 th Grade
5A 11:17-11:36	6A 11:59-12:18
5B 11:36-11:55	6B 12:18-12:37

Attendance Matters...

It is very important that your child be in attendance each and every day, but we do realize that there will be times when they are sick and need to stay home. If your child will be absent, please call the main office at 815-462-7951 by 8:30am the day of the absence. Please call even if you send a note or email the teacher. We will begin calling parent/guardians and emergency contacts if we do not receive a call by 8:30am. To arrange an early pickup for your student please call the office to let us know the time you will be arriving.



Ice Cream & Snacks:

Hershey ice cream and other snacks (ex: chips, granola bars, cookies) are offered every day during lunch. A variety of flavors/items are available for \$1.00 each. These are a cash only purchase and cannot be deducted from the student's lunch account.



NEWS

you can use.

Student Council:

Student Council members will be participating in their first community service activity with our annual fall cleanup on October 5th. Members will be helping to pull weeds, rake leaves, and pick up garbage in the courtyard, bus lane, and main entrance areas of Liberty. Thank you to the Student Council members who will be volunteering their time and energy for our fall cleanup.

The Student Council Executive Board will attend a leadership training day at Irons Oaks Adventure Center to set goals for the year and to increase their communication, problem-solving, and teamwork. Student Council will also plan and host the fall spirit week and pep assembly at the end of October. Fun activities and dress days will be planned for the entire student body. The fall is a busy time for Liberty Student Council as we continue to give back to our school and community!

Congratulations to the following Student Council members who were selected for the Liberty Student Council Executive Board for the 2026-2027 school year: Madison Chase, Lily Czarniak, Aubrey Dietz, Caroline Murphy, and Helena Wolf.

8th Grade Standardized Test:

Eighth grade students at Liberty Junior High will take the PreACT 8/9 standardized test on Thursday, October 30th. The test is used not only by our school to assess student progress, but also by both Lincoln-Way West High School and Joliet Central High School as their first set of data on the incoming freshman class. Test results will also be made available to other high schools upon request, as we know not all of our students will be attending Lincoln Way-West or Joliet Central.

Morning Math:

Monday ~ Mr. Billig Rm 120
Tuesday ~ Ms. Lavin Rm 100
Wednesday ~ Mrs. Bethman Rm 102
Thursday ~ Mrs. Bergeron Rm 200
Friday ~ Mr. Bahret Rm 118



Homework Club

Whether your student needs extra help in a tricky subject, a dedicated space to finish assignments on time, or a place to collaborate on group projects, Homework Club is here to help! This drop-in club offers academic support to help students stay on top of their schoolwork. Students must have a signed permission slip to attend; Tuesdays & Thursdays (after school until 3:30 PM), and Wednesday mornings (starting at 7:30 AM). Pick up a permission slip in the main office or ask your teacher for more details!

NEWS

you can use.

National Junior Honor Society:

NJHS had its first meeting of the school year in September where members began planning their initiatives for the year. Our first act of service was to create uplifting cards for children battling serious illnesses through the Letters of Love organization. NJHS will also be teaming up with Student Council members for a fall clean-up event to help beautify Liberty's school grounds on Monday, October 5th. Our next regular NJHS meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 23rd, at 7:30am.

Congratulations to the following NJHS officers who were elected to their positions for the 2026-27 school year:

President - Jane Pearson

Secretary - Alexis Costello

Community Service Chairperson - Lana Walker

Vice President - Caroline Murphy

Treasurer - Ben Pantol

Students interested in applying for NJHS this spring should view the link below for updated requirements for membership as well as the application process and necessary documents. Please contact Ms. McEttrick cmcettrick@nlsd122.org or stop by Room 202 if you have any questions about NJHS.

[NJHS Requirements and Application Process](#)

NLPD Coat Drive:

New Lenox Police Department proudly announce the department's 18th annual "Cops Care" Coat Drive. With the active participation of New Lenox School District 122, the police department will be leading an effort to impress upon the youth of our community the value of demonstrating good character and helping others. The coat drive will commence on Thursday, October 1st and conclude on Friday, October 30th. Drop off points for those members of the public who wish to participate will be: New Lenox Schools, The New Lenox Village Hall (1 Veterans Parkway), and New Lenox Police Department (200 Veterans Parkway). Morning Star Treasure Chest II (2571 East Lincoln Highway, New Lenox, IL) will again be participating in this event. They will provide a coat, free of charge, for anyone who presents them with a voucher. Vouchers will be available at the New Lenox Police Department, New Lenox School District 122 Administration Office (102 S Cedar Rd.), the New Lenox Township building and all NLSLD 122 schools starting October 1st.

Archery Club:

The Liberty Archery Club is in full swing, and it's not too late to join the fun!

Meeting Dates: Every Tuesday through the end of October

Time: After school until 3:45pm

No experience is necessary - all skill levels are welcome!

Whether you're brand new to the sport or looking to sharpen your aim, this is a great way to learn, practice, and make new friends. There's still room for more students, if interested please get a permission slip from Mrs. Hartwig.

Picture Day:

Liberty's Picture Day was Monday, September 28th. Visual Image Photography (VIP) is completely paperless and you will receive an email when your child's images are ready to view online. All ordering will take place online. Retake day is Nov. 4th. If you have any questions, please contact VIP by emailing support@vipis.com.



NEWS

you can use



8th Grade Upcoming Field Trip:

Over the Columbus/Indigenous Peoples' Day weekend, more than 80 of our 8th graders will be embarking on an unforgettable educational journey to Washington, D.C. through EF Explore America, along with trip coordinator Mrs. Zettergren. From standing before iconic historical monuments to exploring world-class museums, our students will take their history lessons off the textbook pages and into the real world. We wish our travelers a safe, fun, and inspiring trip full of lasting memories!

Speech Team

The Liberty Speech team is getting ready to compete at the Manhattan Invitational Speech contest which will take place on Friday, November 6th. The students are preparing scripted scenes, poetry readings, improvisation, and other drama and public speaking events. We have a large team this year who will be competing in over 25 different events.

Mathletes

Our Mathletes have officially kicked off their AreteLabs competition season. They'll be going head-to-head in fast-paced online math battles throughout the coming weeks, testing their problem-solving speed and critical thinking. Wish our teams good luck as they calculate their way to the top! Students still interested in joining should talk to Coach Bahret (7th grade) or Coach Zettergren (8th grade).

School Safety Parent Resources:

We encourage parents of students, grades 4-8, to take advantage of the Cyber Safe Schools resource videos for parents, provided by the District. Please see the login information for Be Sure Consulting for Cyber Safe Schools. If you would like to watch the student videos with your child, we suggest you preview them before logging in to the student portal. The video series is a parent resource, we do not show the videos at school.

Parent login for Parent Video Series:

URL: vimeo.com/showcase/nlsp

Password: NLSP623!

Parent login for Student Video Series:

URL: vimeo.com/showcase/nlss

Password: NLSS876!



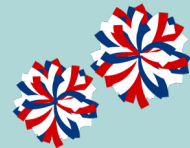
ATHLETICS



CHEERLEADING

Thank you to everyone who tried out for the cheerleading team! The members of this year's squad are:

Leah Burke	Victoria Kowal	Kaylee Mundy
Mckenzie Casper	Colleen McSherry	Kendall Pritchard
Addison Chandler	Gianna Michaels	Dani Vardal
Presley Erffmeyer	Leighton Minnis	Echo Wiechec
Judy Hope	Mia Morrison	Delaney Wilson



Their first performance is on Tuesday October 27th. Please come out and support the Liberty Cheerleaders and join them in cheering on the Lady Patriots!

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

The 8th grade girls' basketball season is underway! The team has been working hard at practice with hopes of starting the season on a strong foot. Conference play begins in the month of October as the Patriots look to continue their success this year. Thank you to all the students that tried out this season, congrats to the 2026 Liberty 8th Grade Girls' Basketball Team:

Congrats to your 2026 Lady Patriots!

8th Grade

Leah Bax	Megan Michals	Natalie Slotwinski
Shemariah Gipson	Lily Nimon	Lana Walker
Hailey Gross	Avery Pantol	Autumn Wallace
Tory Gugliuzza	Dylan Roesner	

7th Grade

Kamryn Busse	Aria Keaveney	Ava Michals
Meghan Cagwin	Emery Knezz	Aria Norberg
Olivia Gusich	Kennedy Lask	Kristen Spiller
Emily Jagoda	Nina Maglione	



7th GRADE BOYS' VOLLEYBALL

Our 7th grade boys' volleyball team has made some significant strides since the start of the season in late August. So far throughout the month of September, the team has earned a record of 3 wins and 1 loss, securing victories against Manhattan, Hickory Creek, and Martino. As the team enters the last week of the season, our Patriots will finish their conference schedule against Mokena, Homer, and Troy before heading into the annual Des Plaines Valley Conference (DPVC) tournament, which will take place at Homer Jr. High. Coach Zumpano has been impressed with the gains the team has made and is excited to see how the rest of the season will take shape. Best of luck to our boys in blue as they finish out the remainder of their season!

Joshua Boersma	Nicholas Flores	Cayden Klink	Dylan Koziel	Carter Tsoulos
Wyatt Christie	Hunter Horn	Jaxon Komers	Enzo Pinto	Kellan Wells

ATHLETICS

8th GRADE BOYS VOLLEYBALL

We wish the teams good luck in the Des Plaines Valley Conference Tournament @ Homer JHS next week (October 6th - 8th).

Dave Aragbonfoh
Ryland Hale

Patrick Johns
Matt Kwasnewski

Owen Oberts
Ben Pantol

Declan Pritchard
Charlie Pruett

Beckett Vandervelde
Jake Wargo



Boys' Basketball Tryouts

Attention All 7th and 8th Grade Boys Interested in Playing Basketball This Year - Tryouts for the upcoming season are a few short weeks away.

Tryouts for the 8th grade team will be held on Monday, October 19, and Wednesday, October 21, until 4:30pm.

Tryouts for the 7th Grade Team Will be Held on Tuesday, October 20, and Wednesday, October 21, until 4:30pm.

In preparation for the season, the coaches will host an "Open Gym" day after school for each grade level.

- Tuesday, October 13th until 4:00pm in the Small Gym (7th Grade Only)
- Thursday, October 15th until 4:00pm in the Small Gym (8th Grade Only)

Good luck to everyone trying out for this season's team. If you have any questions, please see one of the coaches.

Coach Bahret (8th Grade - jbahret@nlsd122.org)

Coach Zumpano (7th Grade - azumpano@nlsd122.org)

ATHLETICS

cont.



SOFTBALL

The Liberty Girls' Softball Team finished their season with a record of 11-5. Congratulations to the girls on a successful season and good luck to the following 8th graders in high school next year: Kinzie Catellier (All-Conference), Josie Elstner (All-Conference), Cathy Granata (All-Conference), Avery Schoan (Sportsmanship Award), Jordan Bartley, Samantha Formell, Maddie Greenhill, Adeline Kaczanowski, Emily Lavey, Reagan Muldoon



Cross Country

The 2026 Liberty Cross Country season is off to an incredible start! Following energetic August tryouts, our student-athletes jumped straight into training with remarkable dedication and grit. Both the boys' and girls' teams have shown continuous improvement in every race, competing against strong rival schools like Martino, Troy, Hickory, and Minooka, as well as high-energy meets like the Bolingbrook Invitational. Our runners have consistently set personal records (PRs) as we build aerobic strength through campus practices, hill repeats, and trail runs at Hadley Valley. A special shout-out goes to Wesley Brady for an outstanding performance in the 2-mile race early in the season, setting a fantastic bar for our team. As we head toward the climax of our season, the team is gearing up for crucial conference and postseason championship meets.



GOLF

Congratulations to our Liberty golfers on a great performance at the Sectional Tournament! We are so proud of the hard work, dedication, and sportsmanship you showed throughout the season. Bobby Farbak led the way with an impressive 99 – great job, Bobby! Thomas Johnson followed with a solid 105 – way to compete, Thomas! Charlie Adamik posted a 111 – great effort, Charlie! Ben St. Leger finished with a 118 – nice work, Ben! Jase Jakubczak rounded out the team with a 124 – way to finish strong, Jase!

Congratulations to all of our Liberty golfers! We are proud of you and all the hard work you put into the season. Go Patriots!



BASEBALL

The Liberty Patriots Baseball Team ended their season with a 3-10 record in Varsity contests and a 3-0 record in Junior Varsity contests. The Patriots drew the 2nd seeded Homer in the first round of the IESA Regional Tournament. The game was a hard fought battle that led to extra innings where Liberty's season unfortunately ended in a 6-5 loss in the 8th inning. Overall, the Patriots brought energy to every game and left everything they had out on the field. The Patriots three All-Conference selections were Nate Berlin, Ethan Cartolano, and Troy Sweeney. The Sportsmanship Award went to Camden Pettit.

MUSIC

dept.



WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS MONTH:

BAND & ORCHESTRA CONCERT

Date: **October 21st, 2026**

Time: **6:30pm**

Location: **Liberty Main Gym**



CONTACT

Band: jclark@nlsd122.org
Orchestra: edarin@nlsd122.org
Chorus: tjesse@nlsd122.org



BAND

The Liberty Band is excited to perform our first concert on Wednesday, October 15th at 6:30pm in the Liberty Gym. Admission is free and we encourage our Liberty families to come out to hear some great music. We hope to see you there!

CHORUS

The Patriot Chorus is off to a busy start this school year. Our singers are working hard to prepare for our upcoming first concert, which will be on Tuesday, November 3 at 6:30 pm in the Liberty cafeteria. The chorus will present a variety of songs including an African folk song, vocal jazz, and more. We also have seven singers auditioning for the ILMEA District I Honor Choir.

ORCHESTRA

The Liberty Orchestra is gearing up for our first concert! Join us for our Fall Concert on Wednesday, 21, at 6:30pm. Musicians need to start looking for appropriate CONCERT BLACK attire for our performance. Concert black means musicians should be dressed in all black, semi-formal clothes with minimal patterns and/or designs. Please avoid jeans, t-shirts, hoodies, etc., as concerts are 'dress up' events.

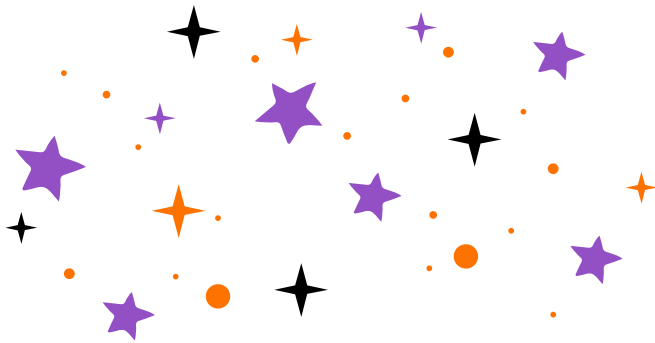
To Our 5th and 6th Grade Helpers: Thank you to the many junior high helpers who are playing with the 6th graders at after school class!

Your leadership is very much appreciated and the 6th graders are loving getting to know you. 5th and 6th grade schedules are available in the orchestra room. Any junior high student that stays needs to have a ride at 3:15pm, so please make sure you have a ride to pick you up on time. Assignments: All 1st Trimester assignments are due by Friday, October 30. Musicians can submit videos on Google Classroom or perform live for Ms Darin during study hall.

CALENDAR REMINDERS

October

- 1st Lockdown Drill
- 2nd Midterm Day
- 9th-11th Washington D.C. Trip
- 12th Holiday No School
- 20th Fire Drill & Bus Evacuation Drill
- 20th Board of Education Meeting - 6pm
- 21st Band & Orchestra Concert - 6:30pm
- 24th Band & Orchestra Performance
- New Lenox Commons TBA
- 26th - 30th Fall Spirit Week
- 28th Team Pictures - Boy's Basketball, Girl's Basketball, Cheer, & Poms
- 28th PreACT Test for 8th Grade
- 30th Pep Assembly & Team Activities
- 30th Early Dismissal 11:25am
- 30th Q1 Ends



November

- 1st Daylight Savings Time
- 2nd Start Q2 - Health
- 4th Picture Retakes
- 5th (6th Grade) Band/Orchestra/Allegro/Jazz Band Concert 6:30pm
- 12th (5th Grade) Band Concert
 - Band 5:30pm
 - Orchestra 6:15pm
 - Chorus ????
- 13th Trimester 1 Ends
- 14th ILMEA Jazz Festival TBA
- 16th Trimester 2 Cycle Classes Begin
- 17th Board of Education Meeting 6pm
- 20th Early Dismissal 11:25am
- 21st ILMEA Jazz Festival TBA
- 23rd Parent Teacher Conferences
 - 12:00pm-8:00pm
- 24th Parent Teacher Conferences
 - 8am - 12noon
- 25th - 27th Thanksgiving Break



LIBERTY FULL CALENDAR

WEEKLY ACTIVITY CALENDAR

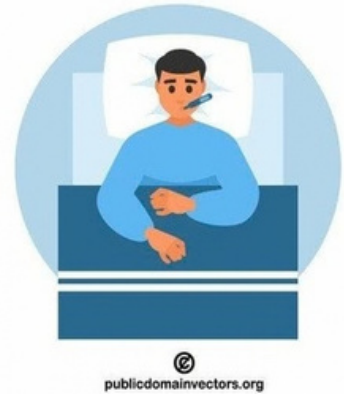


NURSE'S CORNER

Respiratory Virus season is approaching.

Core prevention strategies are essential practices recommended for everyone. They provide a foundation of protection for you and your loved ones:

- Stay up to date with recommended [immunizations](#).
Talk to your doctor or trusted healthcare provider about what may be recommended for you and your family.
- Practice good [hygiene](#) like washing your hands regularly and cleaning commonly touched surfaces.
- Take [steps for cleaner air](#) as possible in places where people live and work.
- When sick with a respiratory illness:
 - Use [precautions to prevent spread](#). Stay home and away from others for at least 24 hours until feeling better and fever free. Take added precaution for the next 5 days (wearing a mask, physical distancing)
 - Seek health care promptly for treatment if you have [risk factors for severe illness](#); [treatment](#) may help lower your risk of severe illness.

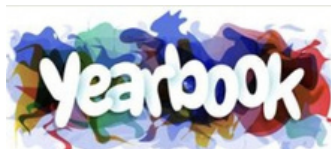


For more information please visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/prevention/index.html>

For further questions regarding a prolonged illness greater than 3 days, please feel free to call the school nurse for guidance regarding absences and when to return to school at 815-462-7806 or email jkerzman@nlsd122.org.





Liberty Junior High 2026-2027 VIPhardcover yearbook

Order and reserve your 2026-2027 yearbook today!

Standard Yearbook ONLY - for \$30 (Due 4/19/27)

8th Grade Yearbook with Happy Ad-for \$40 (Due 1/8/27)

Email to follow with Happy-Ad details after purchase

Questions?

Email Ms. Alvarez at aalvarez@nlsd122.org or Mrs. Berwanger at

mberwanger@nlsd122.org

<https://www.vipis.com/group/db0e9aa9/liberty-junior-high-school>



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN THE GEOGRAPHY BEE!

Liberty and Martino will be hosting a school level competition and a Cross-Town Competition this year.

Liberty School Level Competition (Students Only):

Date: 11/12

Time: 2:50-3:50

Location: Room B-108 (Mrs. Ferree's Room)

The top five finalists will advance to the Cross-Town Competition.

Cross-Town Competition (Families may attend):

Date: December 9

Time: 4:00- 5:00

Location: Liberty Jr. High Cafeteria

**SIGNUP: JOIN GOOGLE CLASSROOM PAGE WITH CODE-
4yr4emjh**



NEW LENOX POLICE DEPARTMENT COAT DRIVE



(October 1st through 31st)



DROP OFF LOCATIONS:

**NEW LENOX SCHOOLS, NEW
LENOX POLICE DEPARTMENT,
OR NEW LENOX VILLAGE HALL.**

COAT VOUCHERS ARE AVAILABLE AT:

**NEW LENOX SCHOOLS, NEW
LENOX POLICE DEPARTMENT,
NEW LENOX VILLAGE HALL,
OR NEW LENOX TOWNSHIP**



STANDARD RESPONSE PROTOCOL

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

Our school has adopted The "I Love U Guys" Foundation's Standard Response Protocol (SRP). Students and staff will be training, practicing, and drilling the protocol.

COMMON LANGUAGE

The Standard Response Protocol (SRP) is based on an all-hazards approach as opposed to individual scenarios. Like the Incident Command System (ICS), SRP utilizes clear common language while allowing for flexibility in protocol.

The premise is simple - there are five specific actions that can be performed during an incident. When communicating these, the action is labeled with a "Term of Art" and is then followed by a "Directive." Execution of the action is performed by active participants, including students, staff, teachers and first responders. The SRP is based on the following actions: Hold, Secure, Lockdown, Evacuate, and Shelter.

HOLD

"In Your Classroom or Area"

Students are trained to:

- Clear the hallways and remain in their area or room until the "All Clear" is announced
- Do business as usual

Adults and staff are trained to:

- Close and lock the door
- Account for students and adults
- Do business as usual



SECURE

"Get Inside. Lock outside doors"

Students are trained to:

- Return to inside of building
- Do business as usual

Adults and staff are trained to:

- Bring everyone indoors
- Lock the outside doors
- Increase situational awareness
- Account for students and adults
- Do business as usual



LOCKDOWN

"Locks, Lights, Out of Sight"

Students are trained to:

- Move away from sight
- Maintain silence
- Do not open the door

Adults and staff are trained to:

- Recover students from hallway if possible
- Lock the classroom door
- Turn out the lights
- Move away from sight
- Maintain silence
- Do not open the door
- Prepare to evade or defend



EVACUATE

"To a Location"

Students are trained to:

- Leave stuff behind if required to
- If possible, bring their phone
- Follow instructions

Adults and staff are trained to:

- Bring roll sheet and Go Bag (unless instructed not to bring anything with them, dependent on reason for evacuation.)
- Lead students to Evacuation location
- Account for students and adults
- Report injuries or problems using Red Card/Green Card method.



SHELTER

"State Hazard and Safety Strategy"

Hazards might include:

- Tornado
- Hazmat
- Earthquake
- Tsunami

Safety Strategies might include:

- Evacuate to shelter area
- Seal the room
- Drop, cover and hold
- Get to high ground

Students are trained in:

- Appropriate Hazards and Safety Strategies

Adults and staff are trained in:

- Appropriate Hazards and Safety Strategies
- Accounting for students and adults
- Report injuries or problems using Red Card/Green Card method.

