Blue Ridge CUSD#18
411 N. John Street, Farmer City, IL 61842
Phone: 309 928-9141
#br_u_knighted

October 3, 2025

This letter is to inform parents of upcoming safety drills in each of our buildings. These drills will be announced as drills and are currently scheduled to be conducted on October 9. The intruder drill will include a scenario that is read over the intercom where staff and students will respond to the information provided in the way that is safest, based upon the current location of the class and the description of the scenario that is provided. When we conduct an intruder drill, we have to notify parents as the state law requires that an opt out choice be made available.

Below you will find a portion of a letter that was shared with all Blue Ridge Parents/Guardians during the registration process regarding available options during an intruder drill.

*Dear Parent or Guardian:*

*During the school year, all Blue Ridge Schools will participate in intruder drills, along with various other weather and safety related drills. This communication is specific to our intruder drill process. These drills serve several purposes:*

- *To allow students, staff, and first responders to practice decision making and communication procedures.*
- *To identify and solve any problems or concerns that are identified through the process so we are better prepared should an actual need to lock down or evacuate students ever arise.*

*Typically, a letter is sent out prior to each scheduled intruder drill, allowing parents an opportunity to opt their student out of the drill, as is required by state law. As intruder drills are often conducted in all three buildings on the same day, the exact timing for each drill is unpredictable, which means that those students who are opted out often miss multiple hours of the school day, which sometimes leads to missing a full day of school. In an attempt to reduce students' time away from the learning environment, we will be offering a modified version of opting out of an intruder drill.*

*The three options for intruder drill participation are as follows:*

*Option 1: FULL participation in the intruder drill*

*Option 2: MODIFIED participation in the intruder drill- Modified participation allows students to remain on campus during the drill. These students would be called to the office and would be under the direct supervision of the school counselor, or their staff designee, for the entirety of the drill. For example, the counselor would call a student to the office and together they would go to a designated location in the building. They would not actively participate in the drill, but they would discuss the learning point of the drill with the school counselor. Once the drill was completed, the student would return to class. This would eliminate the need for the student to be away from the building for an extended period of time.*

*Option 3: NO participation in the intruder drill- Students whose parents opt for them not to participate in the drill may not be on campus during the drill. As has been required in the past, those who opt out of the drill will meet with school personnel soon after the drill to discuss the learning points from the drill.*

Mr. Ryan Peyton, Superintendent
Mr. Brian Easter, BRHS Principal Mr. Jim Kirkton, BRHS Assistant Principal
Mr. Burton Huddleston, BRIJHS Principal Mrs. Shawna Kollross, BRIJHS Assistant Principal
Mrs. Sunny McMurry, Ruth M. Schneider Elementary Principal
Mrs. Mary Diener, Ruth M. Schneider Interim Assistant Principal

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As stated in the communication above, It is our hope that all students will participate in this safety activity. Below are the scheduled drill dates by building. If you intend for your student not to participate, I ask that you communicate with the respective school as the dates approach for updated information.

- BRSE **Oct 9, 10:15 a.m.**
- BRIJHS **Oct 9, 1:00 p.m.**
- BRHS **Oct 9, 10:45 a.m.**

We strive to keep safety a top priority at all times. Thank you for your support of these efforts.

Respectfully,

Ryan Peyton

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