



2/15/18

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Like many of you, I was shocked and saddened by the tragic school shooting yesterday at a Florida High School. I watched the news and shook my head, thinking about what, if anything, could have been done to prevent this from happening. As a father of three young daughters, I worry for them and wonder what the world will be like when they are teenagers. A couple of years back, the Washington Post published an article entitled, *"There's never been a safer time to be a kid in America"*. While this may be true, sometimes it doesn't feel that way (especially after yesterday).

As a parent, I worry about my own children. As a Principal, I want all the parents to know that the safety of our students is my number one priority. LPA Central has regular drills to prepare our students and staff for different situations. These drills are designed to keep our students safe. The schedule listed below has been implemented for the last 3 years.

- Fire Drills are conducted once a month.
- Soft Lock-Down Drills are conducted 3 times per year with our students. A "Soft Lock-Down" occurs when an incident happens near our campus, but there is no imminent danger to our students.
- Hard Lock-Down Drills are conducted 3 times per year with our students. A "Hard Lock-Down" is when there is an imminent threat on our campus.

Our teachers and staff have been trained by the Pima County Sherriff's Department on how to handle Hard Lock-Down scenarios (luckily this has never occurred at LPA Central). In addition, our school has a 7-person Safety Committee that meets monthly to review ways to improve the safety of our campus. If any parents have a concern, issue, or suggestion – please email me at [bewald@lpatucson.org](mailto:bewald@lpatucson.org). I will return all emails within 24 hours.

Thank you,

Brendan Ewald

Principal

La Paloma Academy – Central Campus