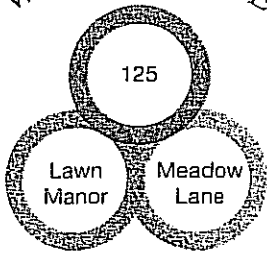


WE EDUCATE



Hamlin
UGC

Atwood Heights School District 125

Dr. Samuel A. Rizzo Administrative Center
12150 South Hamlin Avenue / Alsip, Illinois 60803
708-371-0080 - Fax: 708-371-7847

OUR FUTURE

Dr. Thomas E. Livingston
Superintendent of Schools

December 19, 2012

Dear Parents/Guardians of District 125,

The Atwood Heights School community is deeply saddened by the tragic event in Newtown Public School District and Sandy Hook Elementary School. Whenever a school experiences violence and the lives of children and adults are lost, we struggle to find words to express our emotions and explain how this could have happened.

Schools are among the safest places for children and adolescents in our country, and, in fact, crime in schools has been trending downward for more than a decade. Nationwide statistics, however, provide little solace when 20 first-graders and six adults are senselessly gunned down in a small town's elementary school. Accounts from Sandy Hook indicate that the school's heroic principal and her staff had safety measures in place and had practiced their emergency procedures. As a result, children's lives were saved and an even greater tragedy was averted.

Not all tragedies can be prevented. Schools and districts need to be ready to handle crises, large and small, to keep our children and staff out of harm's way and ready to learn and teach. We believe it is important that you are fully informed of school activities in response to this tragic event so that you can follow up with your children at home. Please review the Parent's Brochure for Emergency Response Planning which is being sent home once again for your review. Our faculty and staff continue to practice the protocols in place and have met to review them again in light of this recent event. In addition, we have met with our first responders and will continue to implement all necessary improvements. As we reflect on what happened last week in Connecticut, I want to share some of the changes we will be implementing **effective today**:

- If you are planning to visit the school, please call the school office ahead of time and let the secretary know when you will be arriving. You will need a picture ID when you are allowed into our buildings.
- Lunches will **no longer** be allowed to be dropped off at the school offices. We will provide lunches to students should they forget their lunch on a given day.
- Doors will not be left open for band or sports, so please make sure your child arrives at their scheduled time, otherwise your student will have to miss practice that day.

In this time of shock and sorrow, we will come together as a community and help one another and ourselves during this difficult time. Please call the school office if we can provide you with additional help.

Sincerely,

Dr. Thomas E. Livingston
Superintendent of Schools