



October 7, 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians,

This notice is being sent to you in order to inform you of the following Amendment to Education Law s 807 (1-a), (b): **Fire Emergency Drills**. In the past all schools, public and non-public, have been required to conduct twelve fire drills per year; that has now changed, as of May 19, 2016, New York State is now requiring that we conduct eight fire drills and four lock-downs, per year. Please read the following Amendment.

**Amendments to Education Law s 807 (1-a), (b): Fire and Emergency Drills**

- 1- The amendments expanded fire drill requirements to also include emergency drills to prepare students to be able to respond appropriately in the event of a sudden emergency.
- 2- The statute now requires twelve drills be conducted each school year, four of which must be lock-down drills, the remaining eight are required to be evacuation drills.
- 3- There is still a requirement that eight of the required twelve drills must be completed in the first half of the school year. However, the date of completion has been changed from December 1 to December 31 of each school year.

On Thursday, October 13, 2016, Mr. Thomas Carton, Coordinator of Safety and Security, for the East Ramapo Central School District, will be coming to CCS in order to help us conduct our first of four Lock-down drills. Mr. Carton will be providing expanded guidance on these important sections of Education Law and how our school can best meet these new requirements.

It has become clear that for schools to be equally as prepared for possible occurrence of violence, expanded emergency response drills, including lock-down drills, are essential.

The upcoming October 13, 2016 Lock-down drill is in preparation for staff, providing an opportunity to train students in classroom groups, remembering procedures, and check on provisions. Following the drill, students can debrief with their teachers in the classrooms.

Please be assured that the safety and well-being of our students is our main objective. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the above telephone number.

In His Service,

Jeannette Rosa-Sanchez, MS, LMSW

School Administrator