



September 2020

Dear Lancaster Country Day School Parent/Guardian,

As we move toward our opening of school Thursday, Sept. 8, please know that LCDS has put a great deal of effort into promoting a safe reentry for our faculty, staff, and students. To support school safety, we must collectively do all we can to suppress the spread of COVID-19. But, beyond that, to promote safety and wellness we must also continue to practice our responses to emergency situations so we remain prepared for them.

Each month we conduct safety drills that include practice for fire, lockdown, tornados, and evacuation to safe zones. We will conduct these drills with our COVID-19 protocols in mind this year. These have been informed by counsel from first responders and other security consultants.

Safety drills provide our students and staff the opportunity to practice how they would respond in potentially dangerous situations. To reduce the anxiety these drills might cause, we broadcast pre-recorded announcements that clearly identify the activities as drills.

To communicate emergency information (like a snow day or two-hour delay), we use Connect5, an automated phone/SMS/email contact system that informs parents/guardians in the event of an out-of-the-ordinary situation that could impact your family's schedule. To sign-up for Connect5, or to modify your contact information, please contact Beth Otto at [otloe@lancastercountryday.org](mailto:otloe@lancastercountryday.org) or 717-392-2916, ext. 271.

In the event we need to leave the building and reunite with parents off-site, that information would also be relayed through Connect5. If such an evacuation were necessary, our primary destination and reunification site is the Alumni Sports & Fitness Center at Franklin & Marshall College.

Our school participates in the [Safe2Say Something](#) program, a state-mandated initiative that trains students and staff to identify warning signs of safety concerns and to act quickly on those signs. In addition, we are excited to embark on a new program for grades 5-12 known as [#WinatSocial](#). #WinatSocial is a game-like program that helps students and their families navigate social media in positive ways. We see this as a valuable addition to our advisory program and yet another way that we promote the safety of our school community.

We continuously work to create a positive and safe school, a process that also allows us to help our students and staff develop valuable life-saving skills. If you have any questions about anything described above, please let me know. We always strive to improve, and we are grateful for input and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Todd K. Trout'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T'.

Todd K. Trout, Ph.D.

Assistant Head of School and Safety Coordinator

Lancaster Country Day School

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