

Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe we are completing our third week of school this year. The time seems to go by quickly. First of all, I wish to welcome all of the new families to our school and sincerely hope you are finding Timpanogos Academy a great place for your children to be educated. I also wish to express my thanks for your help in keeping the students safe and also following the directions given through email or in person. Our goal is to provide a safe and caring environment to everyone associated with our school. In this letter, I will be addressing safety, lock down drills, and air quality.

**Safety:** There is not a day goes by that I am not reflecting on the safety of your children. We instruct the students to choose the safe route to get where they need to be. In the morning before school, you may have seen me on Center Street just east of Lindon Elementary wearing a bright yellow reflective vest being a crossing guard. Once students cross Center Street, they are to remain out of traffic lanes until they arrive at the building where their class is located. Please know any of you can drop off your children on Center Street where the crossing guard is standing. They will help them safely cross the street. They then have a safe route to get to the school without needing to cross any traffic lanes. We will have someone there from 7:30 to 8:00 AM. On a note of concern, even though we have asked all students to use the crosswalk where the crossing guard is stationed, if they are riding their bikes or walking and need to cross Center Street, some are choosing to cross further up Center Street putting themselves in a more dangerous situation. Frankly, this scares me. There is not a crosswalk or crossing guard to help them in the area they are crossing, and the sun is very bright in the morning making it difficult for drivers to see a child in the street. Please tell your children they are expected to use the crosswalk where a guard can assist them.

**Lock Down Drills:** Periodically throughout the school year, we will be having lock down drills. Basically this means in the event of an emergency we may need to shelter in place. This may be because we have been instructed by law enforcement, have an unsafe situation in the building, or other reason which in order to keep everyone safe we would lock down. During a lock down, the main doors to the building will be locked. If you happen to come during one of these drills, please be patient as we complete our drill. The first of these drills will be held on Monday, September 16 as part of the Lindon City Drill Down. The police will be here to observe and give us help and advice. I really appreciate the help they give us. Please talk to your children about the drill and why they are important. When we have held these drills in the past it has taken us about 10 seconds to be completely locked down and the entire drill may take about 10 minutes in order to verify everyone is safe and accounted for. I have attached a letter from our school board about our emergence/crisis plan.

**Air Quality:** With the many fires burning and the inversion which sometimes envelopes this area, it is important to be aware of the air quality and to take appropriate measures to help us all be as healthy as possible. The health department sends out guidance to schools to help us know how best to handle recess and other outdoor activities when the air quality is less than desirable. I have an app on my phone that I check daily before each recess to see what the air quality is right here in Lindon. We compare the readings with guidance found on the attached chart provided by the health department. I also would encourage each of you to download the Utah air app. When using the app, make sure to select Lindon as your location. As I am writing this letter, the app tells me the air quality is 4.1 which is well within the good range for air quality. If your child suffers from a respiratory ailment such as asthma, please let us know how you would like us to handle recess for your children when the air quality is in the moderate range.

Thank you for reading this letter and helping us to keep your children safe!

Sincerely,

Mr. Porter