



## Intruder Drill Provides Important Training

MOORESVILLE, Ind. – Emergency responders, parents and community partners helped Mooresville Schools complete a Code Red Intruder Drill at Neil Armstrong on May 13.

All Indiana schools are required to conduct a man-made drill and often use a lockdown (students remain in locked classrooms with lights off, away from windows and doors) to fill that requirement. Each year, a Mooresville school completes a more extensive drill by involving emergency responders and community partners to create a more realistic scenario. A majority of students do not notice a change in this drill from their normal procedure; however, a few students are part of the extended exercise which involves police searching the building for an intruder as well as fire and ambulance personnel ready to assist.



“Preparedness in the event of a crisis is a high priority for our schools in providing the safest possible environment for our children,” said Superintendent David Marcotte. “Students and staff in the Mooresville Schools have executed specific safety procedures for several years. Our collaborative partnership with local police, fire, and medical agencies enhance response time in any crisis situation. Safety of our students and staff will always be our focus.”

As part of the drill, school personnel practice their procedures for reunification. If a school needed to be evacuated for any reason, such as a weather emergency, school personnel have systems in place to be sure families are reunited with their children in an orderly fashion. Some students with parent permission helped test bus evacuation and reunification procedures by being transported to an off-site location for pickup. Several area churches have served as reunification points for the drills. WCBK radio also announced the reunification information to parents as part of the drill.

The drill also provides training for area law enforcement, not only in handling the specific event but also to become familiar with the school and personnel. For this year’s drill, an “intruder” hid in the building and, when found, made threats about explosive devices and hostages. Negotiations took place and within 11 minutes the entire scenario was over. Members of the Mooresville Police Department, Morgan County Sheriff’s Department, and Indiana State Police took part in the training.

“We provide the opportunity for all stakeholders to participate in this event so everyone can see what works and how we might make improvements,” said School Safety Specialist Rex Cook. Drills such as these also provide opportunities to test equipment and systems. Radio “dead spots” in some school buildings were identified through these drills and a grant from the Indiana Department of Homeland Security is helping correct the problem.

In cooperation with Mooresville and Brown Township Fire and EMS services as well as Franciscan St. Francis Health, a handful of students with parent permission were designated as “injured” and transported to the emergency room by ambulance.

Four other Mooresville schools have also completed the full scale drill and a different school will complete the exercise next year.