

Moon Area School District Security – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

When the District sends automated calls, why is the voice robotic? Can it be someone's voice?

Unfortunately, no. The system that we use requires that we type in text then the computer generates the message, thus allowing translation for all languages spoken in the District. If we used someone's voice, the system is unable to translate it and this could cause an issue in the relay of information for our non-English speaking families.

Skylert, MASD's rapid notification/automated broadcast system, doesn't always leave a message on my answering machine or voice mail. Why? How can I hear a missed message?

The system will leave a message only if it can detect a "voice." If your answering machine or voice mail recording is loud, contains music, or has a long pause, Skylert will not or cannot leave a message.

In your Skyward account, you may specify that you would like a text message sent to your cell phone that contains a link to the recording. To set this up, log into Skyward, click the Skylert tab on the left menu, and type a cell phone number in the "Text Message Number" field.

Why does it seem on occasion that it takes a long time for information to be released from the District when there is an incident?

District Administrators and Board Members must make sure that accurate information is released in all instances. Collaboration often occurs with the Moon Township Police Department prior to releasing information. The District must use caution in the amount and type of information that is released when incidents occur. Most people want information and have good intentions for the use of that information; however, we can't choose who to release information to. So, once it is out, people who have bad or criminal intentions have the same information.

As a parent/guardian, how much information can I have if there is an incident?

By law, there is some information that cannot be released to the public. Remember, when information is made public, there is no rescinding that information. We ask that everyone respect the rights and privacy of all students and allow District Administrators and police to have the time needed to properly investigate any situation that arises.

Will backpacks be permitted for use during the day at the middle school (MS) and high school (HS)? Will they be subject to random searches?

Backpacks may not be used during the school day at the MS or HS. Yes, they are subject to random searches both now and for the foreseeable future. The District will let you know if this changes.

The middle school and the high school are on the same campus and elementary campuses are in five separate locations. Why are building procedures implemented similarly in some situations and differently in others?

When there is an incident on a campus, the buildings are treated similarly in many situations. There are various factors that are considered in deciding how student safety will be addressed in any building. Factors include: the type and location of an incident, the layout of the building, police recommendations, age of the students (for example, it is difficult to have an early release for students in K-6 because you could be sending them home to an empty house), etc.

How often are safety/fire drills completed?

Drills are completed as required by the state and as recommended by local law enforcement. Reports are sent to the Superintendent following each drill with a summary and recommendations for improved security in each instance.

Are there emergency plans in place District-wide and for each building?

Yes. These plans have been developed over the last several years in collaboration with the Moon Township Police Department. The Moon Township Police Department collaborates with the county and other local and state departments in safety preparedness planning, as well.

How often is safety discussed, planned for, and revisited in the District?

This is ongoing. The Board, Administration, and other stakeholders meet formally each month to review and discuss issues, plans, etc. There are safety committees in each building and at the District level that meet regularly to constantly revise, revisit, and address safety concerns.

Will parents be notified when a safety/lockdown drill occurs at school?

Parents will not be notified about the timing of drills. Principals and teachers explain these drills using age-appropriate language in each building. Parents/Guardians can reinforce the conversation at home on an ongoing basis. Please remember that some information related to drills and planning must be kept confidential so that limited information is available for those who wish to do harm.

Are there tips/resources I can use to help guide the conversation with my child about these drills and/or the tragedies that have occurred?

Yes, visit www.moonarea.net for the National Association of School Psychologist recommendations or visit www.nasponline.org for additional resources.

What is situational awareness and how can I talk to my child about it? How can I, as a parent/guardian, support what they are learning in school about drills?

Teaching your children to ALWAYS be aware of their surroundings is situational awareness. We will be continuously working with students on this in schools. We encourage parents to support this learning by practicing these skills in public. An example of situational awareness is: while walking through the mall together, ask your child "If there was a fire or some other issue right now, where would you go, what would you do, and what steps would you follow?" This can be practiced repeatedly in a variety of situations and will help prepare students for anything that may present itself.

As a parent/guardian, can I ask questions about safety for my child's building or the District?

Yes. We always welcome your questions, concerns, and feedback. Please speak with your building principal.

Is social media a good resource for information when there is an incident?

No, no, no! Please go straight to the District or your child's building to ask questions or provide feedback. Please don't share misinformation or spread rumors on social media. Misinformation exacerbates issues and takes time away from Administrators and/or police, who are trying to maintain safe environments for all. Please consider what you write and the impact it can have.

**** Please note that posts from official District sites contain accurate information.*

District Facebook and Twitter links:

- <https://www.facebook.com/moonareasd>
- <https://twitter.com/MoonAreaSD>

Board and staff members have a vested interest in the safety of all and work very hard every single day to provide a safe and secure environment!

If you see something, say something! Report it, don't repeat it!