











River Hill High School's School Safety Experience & Advocacy











RHHS's Emergency Response Experience



- What Happened?
- How Did This Make Us Feel?
- What Did We Do? / How Did We React?
- What Did We Learn?

What Happened?



October 4, 2022

- Combined bomb/active shooter threat called-in to RHHS at approx. 1:40pm
- RHHS went into <u>full lock-down</u> for almost 2 hours
- Neighboring elementary school in full lock-down
- Students and faculty transported to reunification site off campus to be picked up by parents/guardians

October 11, 2022

- Bomb threat called into RHHS at approximately 11am
- RHHS went into modified lock-down
- School day proceeded with normal instruction after delayed lunch periods

How Did This Make Us Feel?



Scared

- First official communication received 20 min after
- Rampant texting by on-site parents/guardians

Confused

- Minimal information/updates
- Inconsistent communication from students to families
- First-ever off-campus reunification site by HCPSS

Frustrated

- Unclear logistics for reunification: parking, sign-outs
- 3 Hour time-line from departure to reunification

What Did We Do/How Did We Respond?



1. PTSA General Meeting Debriefing

- Lockdown debriefing with the principal @PTSA Regular Meeting 10/10/22
- School Safety Working Group and School Safety Survey plans approved

1. Conducted School Safety Survey

- School Safety Working Group created a School Safety Survey w/input from RHHS admin
- Distributed to entire school (118 responses)
- **Executive Summary Report** created, forwarded to key stakeholders in county

1. School Safety Panel -12/12/22

- Key representatives from RHHS, HCPSS and HCPD
- Questions culled from survey covered key topics
- Open Q&A followed panel discussion

What Did We Learn?



1. Opportunities for Process Improvements Exist

- Increase communication to parents/guardians
- Evaluate process surrounding HCPD interactions with students
- Examine processes for use of reunification sites & associated parent management

1. Resource are Needed to Address Some Gaps

- Address accessibility of school front doors
- Evaluate classroom needs for extended lock-downs

1. There is More Work to Do

- Create resources for other schools in the event they experience similar events
- Follow-up on recommendations/improvements discussed with HCPSS
- Elevate our process and recommendations to PTACHC

RHHS PTSA Presenters



To support future PTSA School Safety efforts or for more information regarding RHHS PTSA's process and resources, please contact:

Lisa Krausz – RHHS PTSA President president@riverhillptsa.org

Beth Anna Varson – RHHS PTSA 1st Vice President 1st vp@riverhillptsa.org