



## PRINCIPAL'S PAGE

October 11, 2023

Dear Parents,

Thank you for choosing St. Celestine School for your child. We are proud to be able to serve you and your child and we will continually strive to provide a safe learning environment for them.

The safety of your child and all children in our school as well as the safety of the school staff and support personnel is very important to us. In order to maintain a safe environment for our children to study and learn, it is necessary that we practice our emergency and crisis response plans by having drills designed to exercise our procedures.

We will be conducting various drills during the school year. This letter is to help you understand the importance of this as well as to understand each type of drill.

The students and staff of your school will be practicing 3 primary emergency drills each year. They are "FIRE DRILLS"; "LOCKDOWN DRILLS"; and "TORNADO DRILLS." Each type of drill is explained below.

### **FIRE DRILLS**

The school will conduct "Fire Drills". This is a requirement for all schools in the State of Illinois. We want each student to understand and be aware of the importance of this drill and not be afraid when the fire alarm is sounded. By practicing they will know what to do and how to do it. We will be having a Fire Drill this week.

### **LOCKDOWN DRILLS**

The school will conduct A "Lockdown Drill" during the school year. This type of drill will secure the school building and safely shelter all students, staff and visitors inside the building. The purpose of this drill is to keep the students safe from any danger outside or inside the building. During a "lockdown drill" all of the perimeter doors to the school building will be locked and will remain locked until the danger or issue outside or inside the building is removed. To enable everyone to remain safe, no one will be allowed to enter the building or leave the building until the authorities authorize such a release. We will be having a Lockdown Drill next week.

## **TORNADO DRILLS**

The "Tornado Drill" will be conducted each school year. The purpose of this drill is to be prepared to move to a safe location within the building in case of severe weather or tornados. We will be having a Tornado Drill within the next month.

Please remember that these safety practice drills are done to help maintain our schools a safe place to learn and work. If you have any questions regarding any of these Safety Drills or other safety concerns, please contact the school office.

Another event coming this week is a Rosary Walk. It is being done on Friday, October 13. St. Mother Theodore Guerin's Respect Life Organization is helping the students pray the Rosary and celebrate the many gifts God has given us. October is the month of the rosary. Pope Francis himself has stated, *"The Rosary is a prayer that always accompanies me; it is also the prayer of the ordinary people and the saints... it is a prayer from my heart."* As a Catholic community, praying the Rosary is one of the strongest faith-filled actions a person can perform. We are glad that the students have the opportunity to do this.

Thankfully,

Sheila M. Klich  
Principal