

Lemonweir Elementary School Security

We are sharing some commonly asked questions, with answers, regarding security measures put in place in recent years for schools in the Tomah Area School District that have had new security measures put in place.

Can I still bring my children into school or visit a staff member before 8:00 a.m.?

Yes! Before school, parents/guardians will still be able to walk their children into the building and take care of any business they have at the school. Entrance to the building will be made available from 7:30 a.m. until 8:00 a.m.

Where do I park and enter the building before school, during school hours and after school?

Before/During school hours, all of our doors will be locked, so you must enter through the main doors of Lemonweir. You can park along Glendale Avenue. **At 3:00 p.m. for student pick-up**, please park on Glendale, but not in the bus lane, not in front of the building, and not in the staff parking lot.

What happens if I need to come to school between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. and drop something off?

As you enter Lemonweir, you will be asked to identify yourself and state your business at school. Please don't be upset if we ask to see your identification. We have a very important job to keep your children safe. If you are just dropping off something for your child, you will be asked to leave it in the office and we will get it to your child, as soon as possible. We do try to limit the small interruptions to each classroom. If you need to enter the main office area, you will be asked to sign in and wear a visitor pass. Again, these procedures are in place to keep your children safe. When your business is complete, you will need to exit the building through the office to leave your visitor pass and sign out.

Can I still volunteer at Lemonweir?

Of course, parents/guardians are still welcome to come to Lemonweir during school hours to volunteer and do tasks, like eat lunch with their children. You will be asked to sign in and wear a visitor/volunteer pass. When you leave, you will need to exit through the office to leave your visitor/volunteer pass and sign out.

Will parent/guardian pick-up change at the end of the day?

At dismissal time, parents/guardians are asked to park on Glendale Avenue and will be asked to stay outside the building and wait for their children to come to them. Students will exit through one of two sets of doors on Glendale Avenue. Our 4K – 1st grades will exit near the main office, the 2nd -5th grades will exit from the north set of doors on Glendale. For our younger students, we will have Safety Patrol members and staff walk students down the hall and out the front doors. Please do not ask your child to exit a different door.

In previous years, information was sent home about new policies and procedures of how schools will deal with an armed intruder. What exactly will be happening this year?

Our school district is no different from others who have standard protocol and policy to follow in the event of an armed intruder[s] being present in the building or on school grounds. This can take place before, during, or after the school day. The various locations in the building all present us with numerous challenges in ensuring the safety of our kids. Our past practice, which was passive in nature, was to shelter in place and stay locked down in that environment until released by administration or law enforcement. Tragic events occurring over the past several years have demonstrated a need to change and evolve this practice to empower our staff and students to make critical decisions to ensure their own safety.

The Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Education is recommending that public educational institutions adopt the “Evacuate, Hide Out, or Take Action” philosophy for responding to an armed intruder. This philosophy forms the basis for plans the District is using to assist in the safety and welfare of our students and staff in the event of an armed intruder in one of our schools. The Tomah Area School Board adopted this philosophy and the District has implemented this new philosophy. At the elementary level, we will begin this school year by talking to our students about how to stay safe should an unwanted person come to our school.

Our discussions and teachings center on the key components of this plan along with the development of individual decisions in a time of crisis. We are not looking to scare or paint a bad picture of what could happen in the event of an armed intruder; rather, we want to educate and empower our students with the skills to make a safe and informed decision as to the “Evacuating, Hiding Out, or Taking Action” plan when confronted with an armed intruder in the school environment.

Our staff has undergone training on this policy and will continue to develop their own skills and leadership abilities to keep our students safe. As we move forward, we will continue to inform and educate not only our students, but their families as well. The safety and well-being of our students and staff are our biggest priority.

If you have other questions or concerns...

If you still have questions or concerns about the safety procedures in place at Lemonweir Elementary School, please contact the principal, Nicki Pope at 608-374-7846, NickiPope@tomah.education or by stopping in at the school office.

Together, we will provide the best possible education for your child and keep them safe while doing it!

