

For Immediate Release

RECONFIGURED FIRE DRILL GOES SMOOTHLY AT LIBERTYVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

Libertyville, Ill. — Construction at Libertyville High School has caused staff and students to alter much of their daily routine, from where staff and students park, to the location parents drop off and pick up students. It also has altered the way in which the school handles fire drills. During yesterday's second period, students and staff had their first experience with the new system which, according to LHS Assistant Principal Diane Phillips, went extremely well.

"Old habits can be hard to break," explained Phillips, "but our students and staff were up to the challenge. And, this is only the second day of school." Phillips reported that representatives from the Libertyville Fire Department were also very pleased with the 3 minute and 30 second evacuation time by the more than 1,850 students and 250 plus staff members. "The officials observed the patterns and will offer suggestions for continued improvement," said Phillips. The exit time was only seconds longer than times recorded at the school during last year's drills.

Libertyville Fire Department Assistant Chief Bob Kleinheinz echoed Phillips' evaluation of the drill. "We were very pleased with the overall performance by the students and staff," said Kleinheinz, who added that they will be working with school officials to fine-tune the new procedures.

Yesterday's fire drill was the first of three drills that are required annually by schools in Illinois. Four exits have been closed at LHS due to the construction, and additional exits not normally utilized in drills were put into use. "The teachers were also assigned new locations to meet their students," Phillips explained. The school also tested a new system of requiring teachers to hold signs with their names on them so that students can easily locate their classes once outside the building. "It's an idea we're borrowing from Warren Township High School," reported Phillips. "We're waiting to receive teacher feedback on this new idea." Kleinheinz noted that he was especially impressed with the use of signs. "The teachers had clearly taken hold of the new evacuation procedures in only the second day of school," he said.

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