## SMETHPORT AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT



**Administration Office** 

414 South Mechanic St. Smethport PA 16749 www.smethportschools.com P:814-887-5543 F:814-887-5544

April 3, 2023

Dear Parents, Caregivers, Families, and Students,

I want to make you aware that we have coordinated with local law enforcement to conduct an announced lockdown drill at both schools on Tuesday morning, April 4<sup>th</sup>, as part of our routine school safety procedures at Smethport Area School District. These drills typically last no more than 15 minutes. Our administration, faculty, and staff members will be reviewing safety protocols with our students both before and after the drill. Working in conjunction with the Smethport Borough Police Department, we use these brief drills to emphasize a quick response to any threat to school safety. These safety drills are educational as we constantly work to promote a safe and secure learning environment.

We were reminded last week with the senseless act of violence directed at a school community in Nashville, TN, that quick reaction preserves innocent lives. Schools should be safe places for learning, discovery, and joy. It is a tragic reality that we must prepare students and staff with the skills to react swiftly and accordingly to extreme violence in public places. The health, safety, and welfare of our school community is our top priority. As always, thank you for your partnership and cooperation.

On Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, Smethport Area School District will have an early dismissal in recognition of a successful canned food drive. The Elementary School will dismiss at <u>12 PM</u>, followed by High School dismissal at <u>12:10 PM</u>. Regular breakfast and lunch will be served to students on Wednesday. Students will be on break from Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup> – Tuesday, April 11<sup>th</sup> for Easter vacation. School will resume on Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>. We would like to wish each of you a wonderful Easter holiday.

Sincerely,

Mr. Brice N. Benson

Superintendent of Schools