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(student publications policy statements)

general information

The Image is published nine times a year by the News Production class. Subscriptions are \$30. Free issues are distributed on campus. The 2015-2016 Image received an All-American rating with four marks of distinction from the National Scholastic Press Association. It was also named a Pacemaker Finalist. The 2015-2016 website received a rating of First Class. Quilland Scroll named the 2015-2016 Image an International First Place Award Winner.

philosophy statement

The newspaper's primary obligation is to inform its readers about events in the school and community and of issues of national or international importance which directly or indirectly affect the school population. The newspaper, while serving as a training ground for future journalists as part of the school curriculum, recognizes all rights and responsibilities under the First Amendment. Operating as a public forum, student editors will apply professional standards and ethics for decision making as they take on the responsibility for content and production of the newspaper.

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policy statements

The Rockwood School District Policies and Regulations concerning official student publications as well as the specific policies and procedures used by the student publications staffs can be found at lancerfeed.press under the About Us tab.

Staff Editorial

This is not a drill



The threat of an intruder is no joke. The fact that many schools across our nation have faced the threat of an intruder is proof enough that attacks on schools are very real occurrences.

Just because our demographic area is considered 'safe' does not mean being prepared for an active shooter is not important.

Students must consider the importance of complying with the intruder drills, and not blowing it off like the information being taught is completely useless.

In the past two school years, the Image staff has praised changes in how potential active shooter situations are handled.

These changes are meant to be more efficient in preventing injury during an active shooter situation.

This new protocol was introduced to students during the 2015-2016 school year as the Four E's: Educate, Escape, Evade and Engage.

The procedure is known as an "option based training," meaning we are trained in multiple courses of action rather than just a single set of drill instructions.

The purpose of this protocol is to have a plan for different scenarios involving an intruder, because hiding in a locked classroom is not the best plan for every situation.

We are now given the option to barricade the door, evacuate the school and meet at a nearby rendezvous point or fight back against the intruder

based on the circumstances at hand. In addition to the Four E's, a new alarm that is unique to the intruder drill has been implemented.

Although there has been many improvements to the drill process, one thing, unfortunately has not changed—the level of seriousness students take regarding these practices.

All students need to take the initiative and learn the proper protocol for an intrusion so we are prepared if the time comes.

"I would say take it seriously because when I was in the Marine Corps they would always say, 'the more you sweat and practice, the more prepared you are in a combat situation, so we should always take it seriously as if the real thing were to be happening,'" School Resource Officer Jim McDonald said.

Students should pay attention to what is going on around them during a drill.

Just a few students helping the teacher barricade the door while the remainder socialize in the corner is not getting the most out of the exercise.

But, the reality is that in an intruder situation, our lives are on the line. Working together and listening to the teacher are important parts of ensuring the safety of our peers. If just a few people refuse to comply, the lives of an entire classroom can be jeopardized.

As fellow students, we understand the thought of an intruder entering our building can be an uncomfortable

and scary topic to discuss. Some students would rather ignore the drill's importance and goof off rather than cooperate and prepare themselves because the latter makes them feel uneasy.

Facing the topic in all of its seriousness is worth the piece of mind, knowing that you are fully prepared if an intrusion ever took place.

So how can we gain more insight on how an intruder situation actually feels in order to better our understanding for the drill's significance?

All of the faculty members went through a training taught by the SWAT team and local St. Louis County police officers that involved one of the officers acting as a shooter, with a gun loaded with dummy rounds.

This training could be offered outside of school hours for those interested in further preparing themselves.

The drill is realistic and intense, so performing it during school hours with students present wouldn't be taking into account the varying levels of stress different students can handle.

Students need to recognize that school intrusions and mass shootings do happen. It is important to cooperate with intruder drills instead of treating them as a joke.

It's better to be prepared and knowledgeable on what to do instead of ignoring the drill and potentially paying the price down the line.

PICK 5

Five things you shouldn't miss out on in St. Louis this month.

Circus Harmony: Bravura, hosted at the City Museum, is an annual confluence of music and circus arts. This year's event will take place on Jan. 28.



FAC GamePlay

The Foundary Art Center is hosting a board and card game festival starting on Jan. 29. Go play some games!



You read correctly, the Lewis & Clark library is hosting a Harry Potter yoga session on Feb. 4 from 2-3 p.m.



Baseball is back! The Cardinals first pre-season game in Jupiter, FL is Feb. 25! Go Cards!



Want to have a spooky Valentine's date? Head out to Lemp Mansion on Feb. 14 with your date for a nice dinner for two for only \$110.