

Fire Safety Educational Announcement #2

The COVID-19 pandemic has created a new normal which has affected school operations as we once knew it. We have started the 2020-2021 school year “virtually” which is a new challenge for all of us. As we adjust to these unconventional learning challenges we can’t overlook the importance of safety in our homes and learning environments. Here are some important ways to keep your home safe from fire. Make these a top priority.

In the Kitchen

Cooking is the number one cause of home fires. Take these steps today to prevent a cooking fire in your home:

- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, broiling, or boiling food.
- If you leave the kitchen, turn the burner off.
- Keep things that can burn away from your cooking area.
- Turn pot handles toward the back of the stove so they won’t get bumped.

Safe Home Heating

Heating is the second leading cause of home fires. You can prevent a heating fire with these simple steps:

- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from fireplaces, wood stoves, portable heaters, and radiators.
- When you leave a room or go to bed, turn heaters off or unplug them.
- Have your furnace, chimney, and chimney connector inspected by a professional each winter. Make repairs before cool weather sets in.

Electrical Sense

Follow these safety tips to prevent an electrical fire:

- Plug only one heat-producing appliance into the electrical outlet. Never use an extension cord. Examples of heat-producing appliances are: microwave, coffee maker, and portable heater.
- Extension cords are for temporary use only.
- If you have an electrical cord that is frayed or broken, don’t use it.

Plug portable heaters directly into the outlet.

Don’t use an extension cord. Make sure your heater has an automatic shut-off switch that turns it off if it tips over.

Home Protection

Fire prevention is important, but also make sure you and your home are protected.

- Put working smoke alarms on every level of your home and inside and outside sleeping areas.
- Test your alarms each month.
- Create and practice your home fire escape plan at least twice a year.

Remember, our students, staff, and families are our most precious asset. Let’s take every precaution to protect their lives and safety.

Thanks so much for your attention!