

2016 – 17 School Year

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Dear Parents or Guardians,

The safety and security of our students is our highest priority. All schools within Dysart Unified School District regularly plan and practice various responses to emergency situations. This letter will inform you of some of the procedures we will follow to protect our students during an emergency.

What happens during an emergency? School administrators, along with support from district office and city/county agencies, will evaluate the incident and initiate the appropriate response to either evacuate outside or away from buildings, or secure the campus in lockdown, modified lockdown, or shelter in place. School personnel works closely with public safety officials during emergencies.

Students may be kept on campus. In the event of a hazard or other immediate danger to health and safety outside of the school, public safety officials may direct the school to keep students on campus, even after school hours, until the all-clear signal is given.

- If such an emergency occurs, the school will begin a controlled release dismissal, in which students will be released only to an adult who has been identified as a parent, guardian or emergency contact. Please be patient, this process can take time, sometimes hours.
- The school district is prepared to provide food, water and the medications listed on your child's Medication Administration Release form to your child if we are directed to hold students on campus.

Students may be relocated off campus. An emergency situation may require students to be relocated to a location different from their home school. Two district high schools, Valley Vista and Willow Canyon, will serve as relocation sites for all schools. Updated information sent by telephone auto dialer, email and text messaging will apprise parents of the reunification site details.

What to do if your child is kept on campus during an emergency.

1. To keep phone lines free for emergency use, PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE SCHOOL. We understand and respect your concern for your child, yet it is essential that the telephone system be available for emergency communications. Additionally, if our school is in lockdown, staff members will NOT be available to answer the phone as they will be working hard to protect your children and themselves from the threat. Information will be provided on the Dysart.org website, by telephone auto dialers, email and text message through the Parent Alert system, and through the news media. This will include information on when and where to pick up your child. If you have not subscribed to the district's Parent Alert system, please visit the Dysart.org website to subscribe.
2. Do not come to the school unless instructed to do so. We realize how difficult it will be for you to keep your distance from the school, but it will be crucial to keep the surrounding streets and parking lots clear for emergency vehicles.
3. If you speak with or text your child on a cell phone, please remind them of the importance of following the directions of staff members and public safety officials.

We are proud that schools in Dysart are safe, and we are doing everything possible to keep it that way. We appreciate your cooperation and support. If you have any questions about this letter or any other aspect of our school safety procedures, please contact your school principal.

Sincerely,



Karen Winterstein

Superintendent
Gail Pletnick, Ed.D.