



ASHTON RANCH

MIDDLE SCHOOL

August 19, 2022

Re: Emergency planning by Ashton Ranch Middle School and the Dysart Unified School District

Dear Parents / Guardians:

Maintaining a safe learning environment is one of Dysart's highest priorities. Our schools and district plan and practice various responses to emergency situations through regularly-scheduled practice drills. 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 work 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 it is safe enough for the all-clear signal to be given.

- If such an emergency occurs, the school will begin a controlled release, dismissal or reunification process, in which students will be released only to an adult who has been identified as a parent, guardian or emergency contact.
- 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 evacuated to a location different from their home school. Our district high schools will serve as relocation sites for all K-8 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 to protect your children from any threats. During an emergency situation, the district will keep parents informed and updated via phone, email, and/or text messages, depending on your selected preferences in the Parent Portal.
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 this will be crucial to keep the surrounding streets and parking lot 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 their teachers and public safety officials. We are proud that Dysart is a safe environment, and we are doing everything possible to keep it that way.

We appreciate your cooperation and support.

Sincerely,

Lisa Parachini

Principal

Ashton Ranch Middle School

p: 623-523-8300 **f:** 623.523.8811

a: 14898 W Acoma Dr., Surprise, AZ 85379

Governing Board: Chrystal Chaffin, Dawn Densmore, Jo Grant,
Christine A.K. Pritchard, Traci Sawyer-Sinkbeil





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w: www.dysart.org/ashtonranch **e:** lisa.parachini@dysart.org
Follow us on social media @ARMSMustangs