

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Should an emergency, or disaster situation ever arise in our area while school is in session, we want you to be aware that the schools have made preparations to respond effectively to such situations.

Should we have a major disaster during school hours, your student(s) will be cared for at this school. Our school District has a detailed emergency operations plan which has been formulated to respond to all hazards.

Your cooperation is necessary in any emergency.

1. Do not come to the school or telephone the school. Telephone lines may be needed for emergency communication. You will be notified of a reunification location, if necessary.
2. In the event of a serious emergency, students will be kept at their schools until they are picked up by an identified, responsible adult who has been identified as such within the PowerSchool database. Please be sure you consider the following criteria when you authorize another person to pick up your child at school:
 - He/she is 18 years of age or older.
 - He/she is usually home during the day.
 - He/she could walk to school, if necessary.
 - He/she is known to your child.
 - He/she is both aware and able to assume this responsibility.
3. Turn on your radio for emergency announcements. If students are to be kept at school, radio stations will be notified. If electrical service is not affected, information will be relayed via School Messenger, email and voicemail. In Addition, information regarding day-to-day school operations will be available by calling the District Office. We also use an emergency notification system known as *Everbridge* which is Southington's emergency management system for communication.
4. Impress upon your children the need for them to follow the directions of any school personnel in times of an emergency. Students will be released only to parents and persons identified within PowerSchool. During an extreme emergency, students will be released at designated reunion locations advertised via the sources described above.

Please be patient and understanding with the student release process. Please instruct your student to remain in place until you or a designee arrives.

Please discuss these matters with your immediate family. Planning ahead will help alleviate concern during emergencies.

Sincerely,

Principal, Christopher J. Palmieri

J. A DePaolo Middle School