Dear Parents:

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. Please read the important information below from the Office of Safety and Security.

Should we have a major disaster during school hours, your child(ren) will be cared for at the school. Our School District has a detailed emergency operations plan that 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.** Roads may be blocked/closed off. Emergency responders need clear access. Telephone lines may be needed for emergency communication. You will be notified of a reunification location, if necessary.

2. If students are to be kept at school, information will be relayed via the Parentlink notification system. Information regarding day-to-day school operations will also be sent through Parentlink.

3. In prolonged events, students will only be released to parents, an official guardian, or an authorized responsible adult. Authorized adults are identified as emergency contacts on your Additional Contact (Emergency Contact) Forms. Please be sure your emergency contact information is up to date and 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.
* **They must have a valid photo identification**

4. Impress upon your children the need for them to follow the directions of any school personnel in times of an emergency.

5. Students will be released only to parents, guardians and persons identified as Emergency Contacts. During an extreme emergency, students will be released at the designated reunification location if necessary. Please be patient and understanding with the student release process. Please instruct your child to remain at the release or re-unification location until you or a designee arrives.

6. When the dangerous incident has subsided, an all-clear signal will be given via the Parentlink notification system. Please discuss these matters with your immediate family. Proactive planning and preparedness will help alleviate concern during emergencies should they arise.

Sincerely,

Jill Flood