

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 school district has made preparations in conjunction with local emergency response personnel to respond effectively to such situations. In fact, public schools are built to meet stringent construction standards and they may be safer than your own home in the event of a disaster.

Should we have an emergency or major disaster during school hours, your student(s) will be cared for at the school. Our school system has a detailed emergency plan, which has been designed to respond to any major catastrophe.

Your cooperation is necessary in any emergency, for both the safety of staff and students, and the expedient reunification with your child.

1. Do not telephone the school. Telephone lines may be needed for emergency communication.
2. Do not go to the school, or evacuation site, until notified to do so.
3. In the event of a serious emergency, students will be kept at their schools, or evacuated to an alternate site. Only a parent or guardian 18 years of age or older, who has been identified as such on the school system emergency form, will be permitted to pick up a student. This form is required to be filled out by parents at the beginning of every school year.
4. Turn your radio and television to those channels listed. If students are to be kept at school or evacuated to an alternate site, the media will be notified.
5. Impress upon your children the need for them to follow directions of any school personnel in time of an emergency.
6. It is critical that students and parents refrain from using their cell phones during emergency situations. A sudden surge in cell phone usage could actually overload the system causing it to shut down.

Students will be released only to parents, and/or guardians identified on the school system emergency form. During an extreme emergency, students will be released at designated reunion gates located on school campuses, or an alternate evacuation site. Parents need to be patient and understanding with the school district and its student release process. Please instruct your student to remain with school personnel until you, or a designee, arrives.

The emergency actions your school may take are dependent on the emergency situation. Please realize that we will do everything within our power to keep your student safe. Planning ahead will help alleviate concern during emergencies.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kay Johnson
Escanaba Middle School Principal