

# Pemberton Township Schools

## Parent Expectations in the Event of an Emergency

### **Please be patient**

We understand that parents may be concerned and anxious for information. **But please know that the safety and security of your child is our priority in all emergency situations.** Our staff will follow proper procedures for any evacuation, lockdown, or shelter-in-place situation, and work closely with local law enforcement and emergency responders. To avoid communicating incomplete or speculative information, we will communicate with parents once we have accurate information to share.

### **Please do not come to the school**

We understand that parents may feel the need to go to the school to ensure their child is all right, especially in an emergency situation. However, arriving at the scene before it is secure can interfere with the emergency response and/or put you in harm's way. In addition, too many parents rushing to the school can unintentionally create traffic jams that may block emergency responders from getting to the school or transporting injured students or staff to emergency medical facilities. **Families should not pick up students unless given the direction to do so from district personnel.**

### **Please do not call the school**

We ask that families do not call the school so that phone lines stay open for communication with emergency personnel and school officials. For security reasons, minimal information will be disseminated by school personnel. The district will share vital information with parents via phone/email/and/or/text, once the situation has been assessed and student and staff safety has been secured.

### **Encourage your student to follow the directions of school staff**

We realize that during a school emergency many of our students will try to call or text their parents or guardians. If they do, we ask that you stay calm and reassuring, and direct them to follow the directions of school staff.

### **Rumor containment**

In an effort to minimize rumors and conjecture, we ask you and your child to refrain from posting on social media during an emergency. The spreading of false information or speculation only serves to heighten anxiety, create unwarranted suspicions, and lead to even more rumors. As stated above, when we have solid, accurate information to report, we will send out a global message to all parents.

### **Follow-up Communication**

We understand parents may want more information regarding any incident, such as who was responsible, what the consequences are, and if police charges were filed. Please know that due to student confidentiality and other legal constraints, the school district cannot disclose that information. The police department may release a report if charges are filed and make it public when appropriate.

### **Make sure all contact information is accurate and current**

Please make sure your contact information (and all of your emergency contacts) is up-to-date in your Genesis Parent Portal. Review the information periodically and contact your school secretary with any changes.