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Student Safety and Emergency Response Protocols

The Pilot Rock School District continues to work diligently to protect our students. Only when our students feel safe at school are they truly capable of learning and reaping the benefits of the entire educational experience.

Important information about school safety and security:

- A district-wide comprehensive emergency response plan is in place and is reviewed and practiced on a regular basis.
- Both schools in the district have a building-specific emergency response plan and an emergency response team in place to respond to an emergency situation on campus.
- Emergency protocols have been developed in collaboration with area law enforcement agencies and other educational entities in Umatilla, Morrow, and Baker counties.
- Emergency protocols are aligned with county, state and federal emergency plans, as well as the Standard Response Protocol from the I Love You Guys Foundation. The school district works closely with local public safety officials in the development of these plans.
- Emergency response drills are conducted in each school building throughout the course of the year to test our procedures and to fully assess our readiness.
- Parents will be notified of an emergency, including a severe weather situation, natural disaster or civil disturbance, via the district's website, Facebook page, and School Messenger communication system. Depending on the severity of the situation, there may be notifications on local television and radio stations.
- Schools are prepared to engage in the appropriate emergency response, including lockout, lockdown, evacuation, shelter, hold in classroom, and reunification.
- The school district has specific plans for the reunification of parents and their children in the event of a major emergency.
- School psychologists, social workers and counselors – trained in crisis intervention and recovery – are available to students and their families in all emergencies.
- If you are in need of additional information about safety and security in Pilot Rock School District, please contact the superintendent or high school principal.

How parents can be most helpful in an emergency situation:

If a potentially threatening situation or an emergency occurs on a school campus, for the safety of your students, we request parents to **PLEASE**:

- **Remain as calm as possible.**
- **Do not attempt to go to the school!** Access routes and streets need to be clear for emergency vehicles. Traffic congestion will make response much more difficult for first responders (law enforcement, fire departments, ambulances) to reach the school quickly and efficiently. Parents or community members who try to make it to the school put everyone at greater risk, including themselves and their students. **This is an issue of safety for everyone!**
- **Remain at home or at work** to make it easier for officials to contact you should this be necessary. If schools need to evacuate students off site, you will be given information through the district website, Facebook page, or School Messenger as to where and when to pick up your student.
- **Do not call your student on his/her cell phone.** In some situations, students must maintain silence so as not to alert an intruder about your student's presence. A ringing cell phone places your child and potentially an entire classroom of students at risk. For this reason, students are trained not to use their cell phones until a staff member determines it is safe to do so. To every extent possible, school personnel will work with students regarding the use of their personal cell phones during an emergency to keep you informed and to reduce anxiety. In addition, if numerous people are using cell phones at one location, it could jam the cell phone tower, which would prevent emergency and school officials from using their emergency communication devices. This could seriously hinder their efforts to assist students.
- **Do not contact your student's school.** Telephone lines will need to remain open to deal with the emergency. If the phone system becomes overloaded, it again will hinder our efforts to help students and to provide information to the community.
- **Stay tuned to local TV and radio stations** for ongoing information and emergency instructions.
- **Check for updates** at www.pilotrock.k12.or.us or the district's Facebook page.
- **Show patience.** Know that school officials and first responders are doing everything possible to help your students through a very chaotic situation. Our first priority will be the safety of the students and staff and other considerations will take a back seat to student and staff safety.

Remember, in an emergency, school officials will need your assistance. By following the above guidelines, you will be doing your part by not making a potentially bad situation even worse. We all must do our part in an emergency situation to lessen any threats.

The vocabulary of Pilot Rock School District's emergency procedure plans:



LOCKOUT



LOCKDOWN



EVACUATE



SHELTER

LOCKOUT

Lockout is called when there is a threat or hazard **outside** of the school building. Whether it's due to violence or criminal activity in the immediate neighborhood, or a dangerous animal in the playground, Lockout uses the security of the physical facility to act as protection. **During lockout, no one will be allowed to enter or exit the building.**

LOCKDOWN

Lockdown is called when there is a threat or hazard inside the school building. From parental custody disputes to intruders to an active shooter, Lockdown uses classroom security to protect students and staff from threat. Students are secured in classrooms behind locked doors with the lights off.

EVACUATE

Evacuate is called when there is a need to move students from one location to another.

SHELTER

Shelter is called when the need for personal protection is necessary. Training should also include spontaneous events such as tornado, earthquake or hazmat.

HOLD IN CLASSROOM

There may be situations that require students to remain in their classrooms. For example, an altercation in the hallway may demand keeping students out of the halls until it is resolved.

REUNIFICATION

Reunification is the process by which students and staff are accounted for after an incident, including the reuniting of students with their parents.