

## **Spotlight on Health and Safety**

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### **EMERGENCY READINESS AT SCHOOL**

Emergencies are unpredictable and may cause disruption in our lives and our communities. They can be caused by natural disasters, medical emergencies, environmental hazards, or by intentional acts.

Schools are places where emergency management planning is vitally important to the well-being of students and staff. When an emergency arises, the first consideration for every staff member is the safety of our students and staff. Training and drills conducted throughout the year at facilities and on buses test our emergency management planning and prepares staff and students on how they are to respond during an emergency. This is why it is mandatory in all our schools and offices that all visitors are asked to report to the front desk and sign in. It is vital for us to know who is in the building at all times.

Parents and guardians can assist with our emergency management planning by ensuring contact information is up to date with the school and the transportation office. Parents can also discuss alternative arrangements with their child in case any situation prevents parents from being home at the time of an emergency. In the event of an emergency we strongly encourage parents to remain calm and cooperate with school and public safety officials and NOT to come to the school as this may interfere with response efforts. Keep phone lines open by not calling the school office or your child, excessive phone calls can jam the phone system and impede emergency communications. Parents will be contacted with information as it is available. School cancellations will be posted on the Division Website and announced on local radio stations.

The more we are able to prepare for emergency situations the more likely we will be able to ensure the safety and well-being of our school communities, save lives, reduce damage and return home safely to our loved ones.