

Keeping Staff and Students Safe at Mt. Erie

At Mt. Erie we are doing many things to keep students and staff safe at school. Among these are:

Emergency Evacuation Plan

We have an evacuation plan which we will practice many times during the school year. This plan will be used in case of fire or if students and staff need to evacuate the building due to loss of power or other emergencies. When evacuating the building, students and staff walk to a designated area on the south playground. This common meeting area allows for accounting of all children and staff and sharing emergency information to all staff and students.

During evacuation each classroom has a general emergency kit. We also carry a first aid kit, cell phones and walkie-talkies, a bullhorn and emergency numbers for all students.

Lockdown Plan

We also have a Lockdown Plan and will conduct lockdown drills during the school year. The purpose of the lockdown is to keep all students and staff safely in their classrooms until a problem or situation is resolved. Lockdowns may be done when unidentified people or intruders are in the building, if a visitor becomes angry or agitated or if there is any safety concern in the building or on school grounds. A lockdown may also be called when emergency personnel are called to transport an injured or sick person to the hospital students and staff will be asked to remain in their classrooms in order to keep the halls clear (non-critical lockdown).

Shelter-in-Place Plan

In the case of a bio-chemical problem outside the school, such as an emission from the refineries, a "Shelter-in-Place" Plan is being developed this year in cooperation with the Department of Emergency Services for Skagit County.

Communication

During a real emergency, we will make every effort to keep parents informed through the media, by phone, on the school district web-site, or by sending a letter home. A parent could also call the ASD Administration Office at 293-1200 for information during an emergency. Please limit the use of cell phone and calls to students, when possible.

Student Release during an Emergency

Parents who wish to remove their student from school during an emergency must follow the instructions of all school staff. Parents will not be allowed in the student staging areas. Staff will get a specific student and release them only to their parent or an authorized adult. All students must be accounted for and release must be in an orderly manner to insure student safety. Thank you in advance for being patient.

Radios for Safety

All playground Para-educators and crossing guards carry radios for contacting each other and the office. The radios are used to call the office for assistance or to report any safety concerns. There is also a cell phone with para-educators during each recess.

Walking Plans to and from Mt. Erie

Mt. Erie Elementary School has a comprehensive Walking Plan that is filed with OSPI and the Washington State Department of Transportation annually. This plan identifies safe walking routes to and from school. Recently, a grant from the Washington DOT provided sidewalks on 41st which connect the walking routes in front of Mt. Erie with major routes throughout town.

Daily Routines

Thank you to all parents and visitors for signing in at the office and getting a visitor's badge when coming to school. All school doors are locked during the day with the exception of the front doors and one side door used by the students and staff in the portables. Classrooms have phones, intercoms and computers for communication with the office.