

Lewis & Clark Elementary

Parent Guide: What You Should Do During A School Crisis

Families trust schools to keep their children safe during the day. Lewis & Clark has a detailed crisis plan in place. Staff and students practice evacuation and lockdown drills. In the event of any level of imminent danger, students can quickly and efficiently move to a place of safety.

The reality is that any school district may be touched by a crisis. Disasters range in scope and intensity. They may directly or indirectly impact only a few students, or they may impact the entire school and community.

What You Can Expect During a Crisis at School

- The crisis plan will be implemented immediately. School emergency procedures will be followed as written and practiced.
- Both 911 and the School Resource Officer will be informed and will respond immediately and appropriately.
- Depending on the situation, the staff and students will either be secured within the school building or will be evacuated. Lewis & Clark has on-site and off-site evacuation plans.
- All appropriate St. Helens public safety/emergency response personnel will be dispatched.
- Building and District-level crisis teams will respond as necessary.
- **A School-Connects phone message will call and provide you with information regarding the incident, whether school will be closing, and pertinent dismissal information regarding bussing and where you may pick up your child.**

What Should Your Response Be?

- Do not come to the school unless instructed to by the school or district. You may interfere with the emergency response action of the personnel at the school site.
- Do not call the school. All phone circuits may be essential for emergency response.
- Stay where you are until you get instructions. Tune into the television or radio. Frequently check the district's website for updated information at www.sthelens.k12.or.us .
- Listen for instructions, and follow directions.

What to Do After a Crisis?

- After the crisis, talk with your student about the situation. Listen to your student's fears and concerns. Share concerns with your child's teacher and/or a counselor.
- Expect that school will resume as quickly as possible. It is true that, "getting back to normal," can be the most reassuring response for children and adults.
- A written explanation of the crisis and the response will be sent home as soon as possible.
- If you have any questions about the way in which a crisis situation was handled, wait a few days and then take those concerns to the Principal or the Superintendent.