



Back-to-School Safety Update

August 9, 2023

Dear Pine-Richland Community,

Safety, security and culture are key areas of emphasis at Pine-Richland. This summer, we continued to focus on emergency operations planning and training. **Please take a few moments to carefully read this entire message.** We are sharing this message proactively to allow parents and students to talk at home prior to the return to school.

In June, we hosted a training exercise with district administrators, local and federal law enforcement and other first responders. This annual event helps us to identify areas of opportunity in our safety plans. We continually work with law enforcement to refine procedures and planning.

An area of focus this summer was the **refinement of our reunification procedures should a serious event require evacuation of one of our campuses.** We have identified community locations where families can pick up their children and have collaborated with these organizations in partnership with Northern Regional Police Department (NRPD) to develop procedures for safe and orderly reunification.

When an emergency occurs, parents/guardians are contacted via our rapid call system and receive a telephone call, email and text message. We also share an email with our entire community to ensure clear communication. Please verify that your emergency contact information is up-to-date in the [Sapphire Community Portal](#). Ensure that you are [signed up to receive district eBlasts](#) so that you are notified in the event of an incident at a school where you do not have children attending. We know that in a serious emergency situation, some students may flee the scene, and we will ask for your assistance in letting us know your children are safe so that we may account for all of our students.

NRPD will close the campus of a school or schools experiencing a serious emergency event. It is also possible that the other PRSD schools would be placed into a heightened security protocol as a precaution. In that situation, parents should not attempt to come to campus to pick up your children. Please wait for instructions from the district. While we hope that we never need to use these protocols, we are sharing this information with you now so that our community knows what to expect during a critical event. Being prepared is key to our ability to account for every child and ensure a successful reunification process.

An important step in strengthening school safety and security is reporting. We encourage anyone with information or concerns to contact the Tip Line at 724-449-TIPS and use the Safe2Say Something application or website.

We hope you are all enjoying the summer break. We look forward to welcoming you back on August 24.

Sincerely,
Pine-Richland School District

Website



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