

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Blissfield Community Schools has always placed a high priority on keeping our schools safe and secure, but the threat of war, domestic and international terrorism, chemical warfare and random acts of violence have seriously heightened our resolve to be as vigilant and informed as the ever changing events of national security demand.

It is important that we keep you informed, and it is important for you to remember that emergency preparedness for the nation and for our schools continues to evolve as we all learn more and more about the issues of safety and security that our nation is facing.

### **What We Will Do**

Should we have a major disaster during school hours, your child/children will be cared for at the local school. Each building has a detailed disaster plan which has been formulated to respond to any major catastrophe.

### **Transportation**

In the event a disaster takes place during the time that students are being transported, students will be kept on the bus and the driver will ask for assistance through radio contact with the superintendent's office. If roads are impassable any child who is at home waiting for the bus will not be picked up and will remain the responsibility of the parent or guardian. In the afternoon, the driver will make every attempt to continue delivering students to their homes. Should road conditions prevent the driver from delivering students home or to their individual schools, all students will be delivered to the nearest school site. You may pick them up after Blissfield Community Schools or the local radio and television outlets have announced the "all-clear" signal.

### **Parent Support**

Your cooperation is necessary in any emergency. Specific parental support needed is as follows:

- Do not telephone the school. Telephone lines may be needed for emergency communication.

In the event of a serious emergency, students will be kept at their schools until they are picked up by the responsible adult who has been identified as such on the Emergency Medical Form, which is required to be filled out by parents at the beginning of every school year. Please instruct your child/children to remain at school until you or an authorized designee arrives or she/he has been cleared by school officials for dismissal.

- Please be sure you consider the following criteria when you authorize another person to pick up your child at school:
  - He/she should be 18 years of age or older
  - He/she should be known to the child
  - He/she should be both aware and able to assume this responsibility
  - He/she has the required identification

- Tune in to local radio and television stations for emergency announcements. The decision to keep students at school will be based upon the nature of the emergency and whether or not streets in the area are open. If students are to be kept in school, radio and television stations will be notified.
- Impress upon your child/children the need for them to follow the directions of any school personnel in times of an emergency. Your children also have a part to play in the safety and security of our schools. Please help us by making it clear to them that jokes and pranks about bombs, anthrax or any other acts of terror will not be tolerated. Any student engaging in such pranks will be subject to our most severe disciplinary actions and may face criminal charges by law enforcement agencies.

### **Security Measures and Preparation**

You should know that we meet regularly with county, state, and village safety officials. We are regularly being updated on the latest health and national security measures that must be put in place and followed for the safety of our children and school staff. The following are general security procedures that are being updated constantly to meet the needs of schools in the present and changing climate of security and safety.

- All principals, administrators, and supervisors are provided with step-by-step procedures for reporting and handling all serious incidents (suspicious mail, bomb threats, hostage situations, etc.) that might occur in or within close proximity of their schools and/or buildings during regular school hours. Incidents will be reported via telephone to the local 911 and to the superintendent.
- Blissfield Community Schools' staff members are being informed regularly about crisis response to incidents.
- Each school has an emergency response plan and will activate the plan in the event of an emergency. Each school also has a general safety and security plan and an evacuation plan that is tested by regular and random drills.
- Teachers and principals are being informed about how to handle and report suspicious visitors or unusual activities in and around schools.
- Information is being shared between superintendents and department heads throughout Lenawee County.
- School psychologists, counselors, social workers and the Lenawee County Youth/Community Crisis Team are available to work in all schools to provide crisis counseling, debriefing and other support services to students and staff.

Please discuss these matters with your immediate family. Planning ahead will help alleviate concern during emergencies. If you have specific questions about your child's school, please call your child's school principal. Please know that we will leave no stone unturned in our efforts to make sure that all children are safe and secure in our schools. We appreciate your continued support.

Scott Riley  
Superintendent