

SCHOOL EMERGENCY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Planning for possible emergencies in the schools is a high priority for the Byram Hills School District.

Recognizing the need to coordinate our efforts with parents, the District-Wide Emergency Response Team would like to provide you with guidance on how to best deal with an emergency should one occur while your child is at school.

1. ***Be confident:*** Know that our schools and students annually practice drills for a variety of emergencies, including various types of evacuations and lockdowns. These procedures have been observed and critiqued by local emergency authorities and are reviewed annually by the District-Wide Emergency Response Team.
2. ***Keep in touch:*** Be sure your phone is charged and stay near e-mail as we will use our emergency notification system to inform you of an emergency. The system will be used for initial notification and for updates. Be sure your emergency information is on file and up to date at school and that the PTSA has your contact information. You should know that we use the PTSA as a primary contact for communications and updates during an emergency.
3. ***Stay where you are:*** Don't come to the schools, as access in an emergency is usually limited, or completely cut off in some cases, to maximize protection for the children. In addition, our schools have limited road access and additional traffic will slow the progress of emergency vehicles, which can endanger the children directly. If you come to the schools, expect delays and understand that you may be turned away until the crisis has passed.
4. ***Be prepared:*** Discuss school emergencies at home and cover the following points:
 - A. Talk to your children about the importance of following directions during an emergency.
 - B. Inform children that you may avoid calling them on their cell phones in emergencies, as unnecessary noise can create danger in a lockdown.
 - C. Keep your phone charged and stay near a computer.
 - D. Be sure your emergency information is on file and up-to-date at school.
 - E. Bookmark the District homepage: www.byramhills.org, and the PTSA homepage: www.bhptsa.org.
5. ***Be a role model:*** Show your children what adult calmness and control look like by modeling it when you are in difficult and stressful situations and they are present.