



BELLE VERNON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

270 Crest Avenue, Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania 15012

Phone (724) 808-2500

Emergency Evacuation Procedures

Key Points:

- In the event of an emergency evacuation or early dismissal, parents/guardians will be notified via social media (website, BVASD Facebook, Twitter, etc.), School Messenger all call system, and/or commercial TV and radio.
- Please be sure to provide current contact information to your child's school and report any updates to building office staff. Our communication system, the School Messenger system, will access the information stored in our student information system (Sapphire).
- If an emergency evacuation should occur, please **DO NOT COME TO THE SCHOOL FOR YOUR CHILD.** The campus will be closed to all parent traffic to allow necessary movement of emergency vehicles and buses.
- Arrangements will be made to transport ALL students home by bus as soon as it is safe to do so. Parents should wait for their children to be delivered to their normal bus stops.

Detailed Description of the Emergency Evacuation Procedures:

Protecting and guarding the safety and security of our students and staff is a primary responsibility of the Belle Vernon Area School District (BVASD). In the event circumstances create a situation where the safety of the occupants of any of our school facilities is compromised, BVASD has a plan of action, developed in conjunction with our emergency services partners, which will be put into action. For your information, the following guidelines are being provided:

- When the situation warrants, our first response will be to try to move the students to another school facility on the campus where their needs will be addressed by the teachers and administrators most familiar with your child. Every attempt will be made for the students' education to continue. Students will not be sent home early unless emergency management services and school district administration determine that it is unsafe for the students to remain in the new location.
- In the event emergency services personnel and/or BVASD deem it necessary to send the students home before their normal dismissal, parents will be notified via social media (website, BVASD Facebook, Twitter, etc.), School Messenger all call system, and/or



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commercial TV and radio. The School Messenger system will access current information stored in our student information system, Sapphire. It is vital that parents keep your child's contact information current by reporting changes to building office staff.

- Arrangements will be made to transport ALL students home by bus as soon as it is safe to do so. **The campus will be closed to all parent traffic to allow necessary movement of emergency vehicles and buses.** Parents should wait for their children to be delivered to their normal bus stops.
 - Walkers will be delivered to their door steps since bus stops have not been established.
 - Elementary students normally transported to day care centers will be delivered to those centers as usual.
 - Parents who normally drive their students to school should make sure that these students are familiar with bus riding protocol and know how to safely walk home from their bus stops.
 - Arrangements will be made for the safe transportation of Central Westmoreland Career and Technology Center (CWCTC) and the Mon Valley Career and Technology Center (MVCTC).
- Decisions regarding the timeliness of the early dismissal will be made by emergency services personnel in conjunction with BVASD administration. The use of the staggered dismissal, which mimics our regular dismissal schedule and begins with high school students, will always be the first choice, if possible, when more than one building is involved in the situation.
- When a catastrophic situation demands the immediate evacuation of either of the two BVASD campuses, the students will be walked to pre-determined off-campus locations where their safety will be maintained until bus transportation is secured to relocate the students and deliver them to their bus stops.
- We will do our best to keep parents informed of the details and timelines associated with the early dismissal or evacuation using the web-site, the BVASD smart phone app and the School Messenger all call system. Please refrain from calling schools for updates and information. We will need our phone lines for emergency communications.



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Certainly, we hope to never have to use these plans. However, we do ask that you talk with your children and create a plan for your home in case we do have a situation that requires us to implement these **Emergency Evacuation Plans**. To help minimize your child's concerns, please assure him/her that his/her teachers and the principals will take very good care of them until they can be sent home. It is a good idea to have back-up home plans for your child's care and safety in the event you are unable to get home before your child.

Emergencies require unusual actions. We pledge to make the best decisions that we can to assure everyone's safety. With your cooperation, we believe these plans will permit us to guard the safety of our staff and students.