

WHAT PARENTS SHOULD DO DURING A SCHOOL EMERGENCY

1. Wait for information from the District.

The latest information will be provided by phone, text and email via the District's messaging system (School Messenger). The first priority of school and district personnel is to address the emergency at hand. You will be informed as soon as information is available. If it is an ongoing event, updates will be provided as new information is available. Information may also be obtained from the WSD Facebook and Twitter, website and WTV, Comcast Cable 28 and Verizon Channel 41.

2. Try not to call the school.

Telephone lines may be needed for emergency communication.

3. Do not go to the school, or evacuation site, until notified to do so.

During extreme emergencies, students will be released only at designated locations at the school or evacuation site. It is important that no other pickup point be utilized (e.g., do not go directly to your child's classroom), as we need to be able to account for every child at all times. Please emphasize with your child the need to remain with school personnel until you arrive or somebody you authorize to pick up your child arrives.

4. Know that in the event of a serious emergency, students will be kept at their schools or evacuated to a pre-arranged alternate site.

When the time comes to pick up students, only you or a responsible adult you have pre-identified (i.e., your child's emergency contacts on file with the school) will be permitted to pick up your child.

FACTS AND TERMS EVERY PARENT SHOULD KNOW

Internal Threat (Intruder Alert):

In response to a building intruder, our protocol incorporates a "Run-Hide-Resist" approach which is based on best practices from local and nationwide school security experts. Staff members and students assess the situation and have the option of running away from the danger (if circumstances dictate) or hiding (the traditional locking of classroom door and hiding in the classroom). The "resist" option is also in play, as a last resort (age appropriate tactics that can include use of barricades, projectiles, etc.). Staff members have been trained in this protocol, and share the approach with students at the start of each school year. Drills are also conducted to help staff and students alike be as ready as possible for all emergencies.

External Threat (Lockout)

During a lockout all school exterior doors are locked because of a threat or potential threat located outside the school. Students and staff may move throughout the building as needed.

Shelter-In-Place

Shelter-In-Place means that children are moved to interior rooms in the school with few or no windows. Shelter-In-Place is used when there may be the potential for harm from extreme weather or hazardous materials that may have been released into the atmosphere, and it is determined that an evacuation or dismissal could place students at risk.

Evacuation

Evacuation means that students and staff must leave the school building and move to a pre-arranged safe location.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

The Wissahickon School District is supported by a full-time School Resource Officer from the Lower Gwynedd Police Department. The office is located in the high school, but the School Resource Officer is a familiar face in all schools, providing education, guidance and support to all students and serving as a valuable resource to staff.



Officer Shannon Gallagher

SAFE2SAY SOMETHING

The Safe2Say Something Anonymous Reporting System allows our students and school community to report safety concerns confidentially via a mobile app, website or tipline.

- Call the tipline: 1-844-SAF2SAY (844-723-2729)
- Use the website: www.safe2saypa.org
- Download the Safe2Say Something mobile app

Stay Connected!

Make sure your important contact information is updated in the Infinite Campus Portal.

District Website: www.wsdweb.org

Facebook: [@WissahickonSchoolDistrict](https://www.facebook.com/WissahickonSchoolDistrict)

Twitter: [@WissahickonSD](https://twitter.com/WissahickonSD)



Emergency Guide For Parents



Help us keep your children safe

What you need to know if there is an emergency at your child's school.

Revised: September 2023

The Wissahickon School District takes your child's safety very seriously and we attach a high priority to being prepared for any and all emergencies. This guide provides an overview of our safety and security measures and procedures.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

Follow the direction of school and emergency officials

Following the steps provided will help school officials, police officers, firefighters and other responders do their jobs and focus on the safety of all involved.

Keep your child's emergency contact information up-to-date.

Make sure your phone numbers, email and emergency contact information is updated in the Infinite Campus parent portal. The district sends a call, text and email during an emergency. Additionally, children will only be released to adults listed as an emergency contact.

Talk with your child about listening and following directions of any school personnel during an emergency.

Report any safety concerns you may have to your child's school principal.

Students and families may also confidentially report any safety concern using the Safe2Say Something Anonymous Reporting System website (www.safe2saypa.org), tipline (1-844-SAF2SAY) or mobile app (search for Safe2Say Something).



CURRENT SECURITY MEASURES

The Wissahickon School District currently uses the following safety and security equipment and resources.

- Full-time School Resource Officer
- On staff security at WHS and WMS
- Security cameras in all schools
- Alertus Unified Mass Notification System installed in all schools for emergency notification and critical communication during a time of crisis
- Raptor ID system in all schools which checks visitors against national sexual offender databases and produces visitor badges with photos
- Electronic "key cards" at all buildings for access control
- Emergency procedures posted in all offices and classrooms
- Fire alarm systems installed in all schools
- Safe2Say Something Anonymous Reporting System
- Two-way radio communications in each building
- Individual building safety committees
- Monthly fire drills and other regularly scheduled safety drills in partnership with local first responders
- Monthly school safety meetings with the MCIU and their school safety specialists



Centre Square Fire Company provides fire safety presentations to students.