



**VERNON TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT
OFFICE OF SCHOOL SECURITY/RANDOM DRUG TESTING**

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School Security and Crisis Management

Student safety and school security are of paramount importance to the Vernon School District.

Vernon Township Public schools have in place prevention, intervention, and postvention plans to deal with issues of safety and security at all schools. These plans have been developed in coordination with local, county and state officials and meet all requirements set forth by the State Department of Education and the State Homeland Security Office. In all cases the safety of the student is paramount. Parents play a vital role in school safety as outlined below. Please make your family familiar with these procedures.

Periodically throughout the year, drills will be held at each school to simulate a building evacuation and a lockdown.

Should an emergency or natural disaster occur during school hours, your child will be cared for at school.

Appropriate action will be taken to mitigate the crisis. Your cooperation is essential in any emergency for the safety of both students and staff and to provide for an expeditious reunification with your child.

It is important that you follow the guidelines outlined below:

1. If your child takes medication at school, insure that at least a 24 hour supply is available in the nurse's office.
2. Do **NOT** telephone the school. Phone lines will be needed to conduct emergency communication. Parents will be notified via the emergency calling system and local radio.
3. Parents should refrain from coming to the school in an emergency as there will be no access to the school. Traffic may impede emergency responders from gaining access to the school.
4. In certain emergencies it may be necessary to release students from a location other than their school building. By monitoring local radio and the emergency calling system you will be made aware of where and when you can pick up your child.
5. You need to be aware that in certain situations school officials will be unable to release students until the police give their approval and clear the scene of danger.
6. It is important that the Student Profile Report be filled out and returned to the school in a timely manner. Choose emergency contacts who are available to pick up your child if necessary.
7. The school will only release students to those persons previously designated on the Student Profile Report pick up their child. All students will need to be signed out.
8. Busing will be available for all students upon their release. Buses will use their normal routes if conditions permit.

The decision to release students will be based on whether it is safe to transport students, police and emergency service needs, and the nature of the emergency. In the event an emergency takes place during the time students are being picked up to be transported to school, students will be kept on the bus, additional pickups will cease and the bus will be directed to a predetermined secure location. The emergency calling system will be activated and local radio notified.

The safety of students can be greatly enhanced if parents discuss security issues with their children.

The following areas are of particular concern:

1. Use of cell phones should be discouraged. The signal from a cell phone has the potential to detonate an explosive device and may overwhelm cell towers needed for emergency communications.
2. The importance of reporting suspicious conversations, actions, or internet activities that may indicate a potential for violence or to disrupt a school building. Students should be encouraged to contact a school administrator or discuss the issue with their parents. A district Anonymous Tip Hotline is available to report these activities. Please note the phone number: 973-764-8151. This information is also available on the district website.
3. Help your child understand that the culture of not "telling" on others does not apply when the safety of others is at stake.
4. Discuss the importance of following directions in an emergency and the necessity of paying attention during school emergency drills.

Your cooperation in discussing these matters with your family is greatly appreciated. Your understanding of these matters will help alleviate concern during emergencies.

You are probably aware that we are using the Raptor Visitor Management system in all our schools. This system not only provides visitors with a visitors pass, but it also screens for sex offenders. Raptor also identifies persons who, through court order, are not allowed contact with your child. If you have documentation regarding this it should be submitted to your child's school so that we can update our records and enter it into the system.

When you visit our schools it will be necessary to provide identification in the form of your driver's license.

We are committed to providing a secure and safe educational environment for your children.