



#1 Highlander Way | Lake Wales, Florida 33853 | 863-678-4222 | www.lakewaleshigh.com

October 21, 2019

Dear Parents:

In our continuing efforts to be prepared for various kinds of emergency events, we would like to inform you about a new procedure regarding the possible evacuation of our school.

In most small emergency events, such as the smell of smoke or a small fire, the students are evacuated out of their classrooms to a central location away from the classroom buildings. This procedure works very well for the short duration/minor emergencies that we could experience; and we have practiced this procedure on a regular basis. After the emergency situation has been corrected, the students are released back into the classrooms and our normal school day resumes. However, in a larger event we need to institute a program of evacuation that corresponds with the increased potential threat to the safety of the students.

In the event of a significant emergency, for example a large fire or a nearby hazardous materials spill, we are going to be moving the students out of harm's way to another nearby school campus. This action will allow us to safeguard the welfare of the students by removing them to a safer area further away from any dangerous or hazardous incident.

We have joined with Bok Academy North on the Presbyterian and Baptist church campuses in this cooperative safety effort. By moving the students to this location, we also accomplish two other very important tasks. We will be removing the students from an environment where there could be large numbers of first responding emergency personnel, such as firefighters and police officers, along with their complicated machinery and equipment. We will also be providing a much safer and less confusing area to reunite the students with their parents, or other means of transportation, in the event that we cancel the school day.

In the event that you hear news reports regarding the evacuation of our campus we **do not** want you to go directly to our campus. By doing this you can greatly increase the confusion and traffic congestion around the campus, especially at a time when emergency personnel are present or are trying to move in equipment. Please be patient, it may take hours for students to be evacuated to an off-campus site.

If you hear about an emergency and a possible evacuation, please check social media such as Facebook, Instagram, Schoology and the LWHS website and listen to local news and radio stations for news updates as to the when students have been moved. We will advise local media and use our call out system about the location where we have evacuated the students, and they will broadcast this information on a frequent basis to aid us in our reunification efforts and the proper release of our students to parents, legal guardians.

If you have any questions regarding this procedure, please don't hesitate to contact me. Thank you very much in helping us with our continuing efforts to provide a safer school environment.

Sincerely,

Donna Dunson, Principal