



EDMOND MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

Spring is severe weather season in Oklahoma, and I feel that it is important to make you aware of several district efforts taken to better protect staff and students.

- Board Members voted to study for future bond issues, plans to either add hardened structures or convert existing spaces into hardened structures at all schools that are without them.
- District staff members have reviewed current sheltering methods and practices at all sites to determine the best current sheltering locations to better protect students and staff during severe weather.
- Central office administrators and principals participated in a tabletop exercise designed to simulate a tornado touchdown.
- Central office staff members participated in a FEMA/Dept. of Emergency Management pilot program that assists local school officials in assessing how best to retrofit school sites with safe rooms.

The district's severe weather procedures were developed with the assistance of local, state and federal emergency personnel to proactively protect our students and staff. We work closely with the National Weather Service in Norman to monitor approaching storms. In addition, our site administrators are in constant contact with central office staff during severe weather via 2-way radios programmed in cooperation with the city of Edmond Emergency Operations Center.

If a tornado warning is issued during school hours, we take the following precautions:

Usher all students and non-essential staff into our underground or partial underground areas such as; Welcome Center, Cafeteria, Gym Locker Rooms and Hallway, until such time as we receive the "all-clear" from district officials.

If a tornado warning is issued at the end of the school day, Edmond Public Schools will not release students. If there is a watch in place at dismissal time, students will be released and sent home. While the district does not cancel school when severe weather is forecast, we do understand the uncertainty that bad weather can bring. Therefore, we do allow you to pick up your child/children early on days when severe weather is predicted without penalty to them.

The care and safety of your children is our primary concern, and we want to assure you that we are doing everything possible to proactively protect children from the dangers of severe weather while they are at a school.

Should you have additional questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

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