

# School Safety

## School Zone Policy

The School Zone extends to approximately two blocks outside the school curb. School rules apply to any incident that may occur in this zone on the way to school and home. That includes, but is not limited to harassment, theft, and cheating.

## Fog Delay

Because Grimmway Academy Shafter does not utilize school busses, we do not have fog delays. Please use discretion in determining when it is safe to bring your child to campus on foggy days.

If the Richland School District elects to close all schools in the county for any weather or disaster emergency, Grimmway Academy Shafter will be closed.

## SCHOOL EVACUATION PROCEDURES

The Emergency Response Plan is a preparatory measure. Statistics show schools are still among the safest places to be on a day-to-day basis due to the strong commitment of educators, parents, and communities to their children. Nevertheless, disasters do happen and, because of that, no community can be complacent in its efforts to make its schools even safer. As a result, the following plan has been implemented.

**Drills** – To prepare all Grimmway Academy Shafter students to act on a moment's notice during an emergency, we will be conducting emergency practice drills at the school.

These drills, which will occur on a periodic basis throughout the year, will cover a variety of circumstances. In addition to practicing the drills, we will also be discussing with the students the appropriate actions to take during a variety of emergencies. These drills and accompanying discussions are designed to prepare your child to act quickly and to minimize your child's fear, should an emergency occur.

**Parent-Hand Off** -The Emergency Response Plan also incorporates a systematic approach to reunite children with their parents. The map identifies two sites for the Parent-Hand Off. The site will be located at the walkers' gate near the main office. However, in some cases it may be necessary to use an alternate location. Due to the unpredictable nature of any emergency, we will only be able to tell you where the Parent-Hand Off is located at the time of the emergency.

**Reuniting With Your Child** -In order to ensure your child's safety, it is necessary for us to establish procedures regarding student pickup. Therefore, please be advised of the following guidelines when picking up your child from Grimmway Academy Shafter. Only individuals designated on the student's Emergency Information Card can pick up your student.

- **It is critical that the information and phone numbers on your child's Emergency Information Card are current.** We will be using this information to contact you with the evacuation process and location for picking up your child.
- **You will be required to present valid identification.** This step is required to protect your child from any unauthorized individuals attempting to pick up your child.
- **You will be required to sign for the release of your child.** This is extremely important as it is our only means of ensuring that all students are accounted for at all times. Please do not take your child without signing for their release. We recognize that you may be worried and want to be reunited with your child as quickly as possible. However, this system has been established to ensure your child's safety. You may be jeopardizing your child's or another child's safety by not adhering to these procedures.
- **Keeping Informed During an Emergency** -During a real emergency, you probably will not be able to reach the school by phone, as staff will be busy responding to the emergency and the needs of the students. We will, however, make every effort to contact parents, either directly, or through our **School Reach Program (Remind)**. Please do not call the school during an emergency. Phone lines need to be kept accessible at all times, and overloading the phone system may mean that the school will not be able to communicate with first responders.

## **Parking Lot/Driveway Safety**

Grimmway Academy Shafter shares the responsibility of keeping the school zone safe for students with the Shafter Police Department. That includes the streets around the school and sidewalks. Parents are asked to follow traffic safety and speed limits as set by the Shafter Police Department. Student safety is our priority. We encourage parents to arrive early to avoid rushing. The parking lot in front of the administration office will be for staff parking only. See the GA Drop-off/Pick up Map on the next page.

As we start this year, we want to remind all of our families about the importance of safety, especially during drop-off and pick-up. It is very important that your family has a safe plan for morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up. All families must decide if their children will attend the after-school program, be picked-up after school, or allowed to walk home.

If you decide that your child is allowed to walk home, he or she will be released from classroom, escorted to the south gate, and allowed to exit without an adult escort. Please do not have your child walk to your vehicle in a parking lot or nearby area.

If you decide to pick up your child, he or she will be waiting for you in the classroom. Parents may enter the school through the main gate, walk onto campus and pick up the child at the classroom. Only you, or adults you have designated on your emergency contact form will be allowed to sign your child out. It is also very important that your child is aware of who will be picking them up. Children who are designated to be picked-up will not be allowed to exit the classroom without an adult escort.

