

In the event of an emergency during the school day, the best place for the students to remain is at school. School staff-members will put into effect a prearranged disaster preparedness plan that will insure the safety and welfare of all students for the duration of the emergency. During the emergency, it is essential that the school telephones are available to school personnel. The school should be called only if it is absolutely necessary. Students will not be released from school unless the emergency has ended or they have been picked up by their parents or authorized person(s).

Parents should prepare their children for an emergency:

1. By being aware of the emergency procedure instructions given to their children at school.
2. By keeping, their child's emergency data card on file at the school and updated at all times.
3. By establishing the safest and most direct route to and from school.
4. By arranging for a neighbor or friend to care for their child if the parents leave home for the day.

The Madera Unified School District has a detailed disaster preparedness program designed to deal with major disasters, including earthquakes.

We will adhere to the following guidelines:

If a serious earthquake should happen during the school day, we will keep all students at school in a safe area until parents/guardians or authorized persons noted on the emergency card arrive at the school. Students not picked up will remain at school until the end of the normal school day, and will be released at that time providing it is safe to go home. Coordinating teams composed of school personnel will direct all emergency operations. If a disaster occurs while students are on the way to school, they should continue on to school or go directly home, depending on road conditions or the shortest route. Please discuss this information at home with your student(s).

Comprehensive School Safety Plans

All schools are required to develop Comprehensive School Safety Plans, which, based on a current examination of school crime, identify appropriate strategies and programs to maintain school safety and to insure that existing laws related to school safety are effectively enforced. (Education Code 32282)

School sites are required each July to report on the status of school safety plan, including a description of key elements, in the annual school accountability report card prepared under EC 33126 and 35256.

The school site council or school safety planning committee is required to notify, in writing, specified persons and entities about the required public meeting to allow members of the public an opportunity to express an opinion about the school plan. (Education Code 32288)

Each school site in Madera Unified has a School Safety Plan, which includes a comprehensive disaster preparedness plan. Copies are available to read at each school office. As of January 1, 2012, specific response procedures, evacuation plans, etc., are NO LONGER available for public view. Fire drills are held monthly in elementary schools and in all secondary schools; emergency drills are held regularly throughout the district.

California Department of Education (Disaster Preparedness Information)

The California Department of Education is required to electronically distribute disaster preparedness educational materials to school district and county offices of education in, at least, the three most dominate primary languages spoken by English Learners in California. When posted, (not yet done) this information will be found at the CEC website.

Emergency/Disaster

In cases of disaster, please tune in to these radio stations:

KMJ 580 AM (English)
KMMM 107.3 FM (Spanish)

Please do not call the school because the phones (if in use) will be needed by those providing emergency relief.

Hazardous Building Materials and Pesticides

Parents/guardians have a right to be informed regarding management plans for asbestos-containing materials (40 CFR 763.93) and to information regarding use of pesticides (Education Code 17612). This information is contained in each school's Student/Parent Handbook, or you may call the District's Maintenance Department at (559) 675-4534.

Asbestos Management Plan

An updated management plan for asbestos-containing material in school buildings is available at the Districts Maintenance Department (559) 675-4534. (40 C.F.R. § 763.93)

Backpacks

The State Assembly has resolved that parents/guardians should be aware of possible health risks students take by carrying heavy backpacks. Please take actions necessary to avoid potential injury.

Megan's Law – Registered Sex Offender Information

Assembly Concurrent Resolution (ACR) 72, Chapter 122, Statutes of 1997, strongly urges school districts to inform parents regarding the availability of information about local registered sex offenders. Parents/guardians can obtain necessary information by contacting local law enforcement agencies such as the Madera Police Department or the Madera County Sheriff's Department.

Information about registered sex offenders in California can also be found on the California Department of Justice's Internet website, <http://meganslaw.ca.ga.gov/>. The website also provides information on how to protect yourself and your family, facts about sex offenders, frequently asked questions, and sex offender registration requirements in California.

TRANSPORTATION

Student Walking Limits

Students who reside outside the established radius zones as defined below will have bussing services available to them:

1. Radius zone will be drawn at a distance of 1 mile from the school site for K – 6th.
2. Radius zone will be drawn at a distance of 1.5 miles from the school site for 7th - 8th.
3. Radius zone will be drawn at a distance of 2 miles from the school site for 9th - 12th.

The radius zone will be measured by drawing a circular radius from a central location at the school site campus and around the school within the school's attendance boundary.

Walking To and From Bus Stops

1. Use crosswalks and/or intersections to cross streets. Do not cross in the middle of the block.
2. Use sidewalks where available. If no sidewalks are available, do not walk in the roadway.
3. Arrive at the bus stop five (5) minutes prior to stop time.
4. If you are late to the bus and need to cross the street, wait for the bus driver to escort you across the street.
5. Never run to or from the bus.
6. Go directly home.

Foggy Day Schedule

MUSD Foggy Day Information Phone Line: (559) 673-2288

The following radio stations and television stations are sources to determine whether or not Madera Unified School District is on a foggy day schedule. These stations will broadcast the foggy day conditions periodically throughout the morning hours, starting at 5:30 am.

Radio Stations

English KMJ 580 AM

Television Stations

Channel 24 - KSEE
Channel 30 - KFSN
Channel 47 – KJEO
Channel 21 – KFTV

Fog delays will be called District wide by the Superintendent. Parents and students need to look or listen for fog delay announcements for Madera Unified School District on the television or radio stations listed above.

Bus Riding Privileges

Any student who violates the bus rules or does not follow instructions from the driver may have their riding privileges suspended or revoked. Authority to suspend or revoke a student's bus riding privileges shall rest with a site administrator or the Transportation Director. The administrator will notify parents of the students of the suspension and the reasons therefore. All drivers involved will be notified.

When a student is denied bus-riding privileges, this also includes field trips.

Parents/guardians/designated people of Kindergarten students must be at the bus stop to receive the student or the student will be taken back to the school. If this happens more than 3 times during the school year, the student will lose bus riding privileges.

Video Recording Devices

Some of our school buses may be equipped with audio and video recording devices for the protection of our students and staff.

Safe Riding Practices and Emergency Procedures

Board Policy and State law require all pupils in pre-kindergarten, kindergarten and grades 1st to 8th who receive home to school transportation be given appropriate classroom instruction in safe bus riding practices and participate in an emergency bus evacuation drill.

The training must include the following:

1. Proper loading and unloading procedures, including escorting by the driver.
2. How to safely cross the street, highway, or private road.
3. Instruction in the use of passenger restraint systems.
4. Proper passenger conduct.
5. Location of emergency equipment.
6. Bus evacuation procedures – pupils will evacuate the school bus through emergency exit doors.

General Rules of Behavior at the Bus Stop or Loading and Unloading

1. Always arrive at the bus stop early (at least 5 minutes prior to bus arrival).
2. Stand in an orderly manner.
3. Respect private property. Do not walk on lawns or flowerbeds, or climb on cars and trees.
4. No pushing or shoving.
5. Always face the bus as it approaches.
6. Never run to or from the bus.
7. Listen to instruction from the driver.
8. Wait completely off the road for the bus. Stand at a safe distance from the bus as it pulls up to make its stop, and wait until the bus comes to a complete stop and the driver opens the door before walking towards the bus (recommended distance is 12 feet).
9. Watch your step getting on and off the bus, especially in wet weather. Always use the handrail.
10. The bus driver is in complete charge of the bus and seats will be assigned as directed by the Director of Transportation.

While Riding the Bus

1. Pupils should enter the bus in an orderly manner and should not bring aboard items of injurious or objectionable nature (animals, glass, balloons, weapons etc.).
2. All passengers are required to wear passenger restraint systems (i.e. seat belts) if the bus is so equipped.
3. Do not get out of your seat while the bus is in motion.
4. Remain seated until the bus stops and the driver opens the doors before exiting.
5. Keep hands, head, arms, etc. inside the bus at all times.
6. No screaming, yelling, or use of profanity on the bus.
7. No harassing or fighting on the bus.
8. Be courteous to fellow students.
9. No smoking on the bus.
10. Students are not allowed to make offensive remarks or gestures to pedestrians or motorists.
11. The aisle of the bus shall be kept clear of books, lunches, feet, etc.

12. Permission to leave or board the bus at other than the normal stops shall be cleared with the Principal or the school office in advance and written permission presented to the driver on a school bus pass.
13. The request must not require the bus to go off its route or require an additional stop.
14. Space must be available on the bus.
15. No objects will be thrown in or out of the bus.
16. You may not refuse to share a seat with another student.
17. Remain in your seat and be quiet at railroad grade crossings.
18. All Kindergarten students who ride the bus are seated at the front of the bus.

Red Light Crossing Instruction

(For children who must cross the street at the bus stop.)

In the morning, students are to gather at their assigned bus stop and wait for the bus to arrive.

1. The driver will activate the red lights, and then will shut the bus off. The driver will exit the bus, and walk to the center of the roadway to cross children, if required.
2. Children are to remain still until the driver tells them it is safe to cross.
3. Students must cross between the driver and the bus.
4. The driver will be the last person to get on the bus.
5. Drivers doing red light crossing are in control of the street or roadway upon which they are on! Cross traffic or traffic on the other streets that a student must cross to get to or from a bus stop cannot be controlled by the bus driver.
6. For the safety of students, the driver may escort 9-12 grade students.

Afternoon Drop Offs

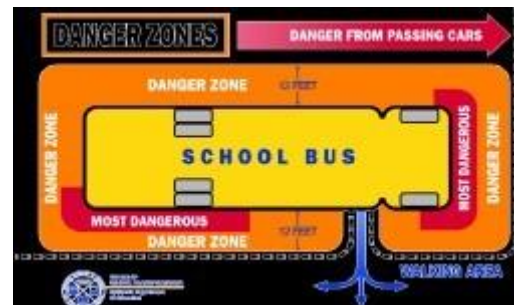
(For children who must cross the street that bus stop is on.)

1. Children are to remain seated until the bus comes to a complete stop.
2. Driver will activate red flashing lights, turn off the bus engine, and open the door. Driver will be the first person off the bus.
3. The children will wait inside the bus until the driver signals them when it is safe to exit the bus.
4. The children must walk in front of the bus between the driver and the bus in an orderly manner.

School Bus Danger Zone

Any place around a school bus can be dangerous. It is safe to assume that if you cannot see the driver, the driver cannot see you. Some of the danger zones children are commonly found while loading or unloading the bus are shown in the diagram below. Never play in the following areas of a bus:

1. Directly in front of the bus.
2. The area near the entrance door.
3. The area near the front tires (on either side of the bus).
4. The area near the rear tires (on either side of the bus).
5. Directly behind the bus.



Contact Information

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