# **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 Arvin 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 Kern County Superintendent's office (KCSOS) elects to close all schools in the county for any weather or disaster emergency, Grimmway Academy Arvin 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 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 first site is located on Nectarine Court and the second site is located on Grapevine Drive. These locations are activated only when the school premises must be evacuated. 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. 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 (Phone Dialer). 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 firstresponders.

### Parking Lot/Driveway Safety

Grimmway Academy Arvin shares the responsibility of keeping the school zone safe for students with the Arvin 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 Arvin 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.

## **Early Release**

Students may be picked up for early release in the front office by adults that have been designated on the student's emergency card. All adults may be required to provide a valid form of identification.

