

Information on Code Red/Code Blue/Reunification Plans

The following information is provided to familiarize parents with Wyngate's emergency Code Blue, Code Red, Shelter-in-Place, and Reunification procedures. These plans were formulated following the incidents of September 11, 2001 and are intended to prepare staff and students in the event of a variety of emergency situations.

Code Blue is a term used to alert students and staff that an emergency or crisis situation exists at or near an MCPS school or facility. An example of a Code Blue situation might be if a bank robbery had occurred in downtown Bethesda and suspects were still at large. In this kind of situation the school and our students are in no immediate danger, but we are alert to a potential problem in our area. Under a Code Blue, all students are accounted for and remain with their classroom teachers until the Code Blue is lifted, and instruction continues as usual.

Code Red signifies imminent danger inside or outside the building requiring that all areas of the building be secured. An example might be a report of someone posing a threat in the immediate neighborhood. Under these circumstances, all individuals must immediately move to the closest securable location under adult supervision. All students are accounted for, windows are covered, all doors are locked and lights are turned out, and the instructional program stops.

There can also be situations involving Shelter-In-Place. This is an elevated level of Code Blue, securing students and staff indoors in certain emergency situations. It may be used if there is a suspected chemical, biological, or radiological incident, or in the event of a weather-related emergency. In this situation, all students and staff are to be in a classroom or other safe location. All exterior doors are locked, all windows are closed and locked, and no one is permitted to leave or enter the building. Depending on the circumstances, parents/guardians initially will not be allowed to enter the building to retrieve their children until public safety officials have notified us that it is safe to begin the parent/child reunification process, as follows:

Parents entering the building must sign in. Staff will check identification (using the emergency information provided by parents at the beginning of the school year—this is why it's so important for you to make sure your yellow and green emergency cards are updated!) to identify parents and other people authorized by the parents to pick up their children. Parents will proceed to the All-Purpose Room, where they will wait for staff to retrieve students and release them to their parents or other authorized adults.

Classroom teachers have discussed these procedures with their students, and we will have Code Blue and Code Red drills periodically throughout the school year in addition to our regular fire drills. We all hope that none of these situations will actually occur; however, it is always best for staff and students alike to be prepared.