



ST. THOMAS AQUINAS HIGH SCHOOL

Emergency Plan

St. Thomas Aquinas High School wants you to have confidence in our preparedness for protecting your child in case of an emergency. We are providing you with this document which we believe will answer most fundamental questions about the school's emergency response plans.

We have done our best to anticipate the range and scope of emergencies which might befall our school or our region. We work with Dover Emergency Services in developing our response plan and will follow the directions of civil authorities in the event of an emergency.

Our success in keeping your child safe during and after an emergency situation will, to a great extent, be dependent upon your preparations as a family. We will rely on students to know what you expect of them in a variety of situations.

A primary issue will be your child's willingness to obey directions. We will provide clear and thorough instructions; students must listen to and follow those directions. Your instructions to your child will be critical in this regard.

Students will be instructed about the various forms of response and will conduct drills during various times of the day and year. Our intent is to familiarize students with our expectations so as to avoid panic should an actual emergency arise.

We recognize a long list of possible crises, emergencies, and disasters. Below is a generalized list of types of problems and the variety of response modes which we might take. In every case the final step would be to provide families with information and to follow-up with individual students and families as necessary.

Fire/smoke in the building

School Response - Evacuate to designated locations in the upper and middle parking lots
- Take attendance; follow directions of local authorities
- Contact parents/guardians through Blackboard Connect

Family Response: - Please do not come to school campus.
- Do not call school/student
- Listen to public information*

Uninhabitable building

School Response - Evacuation to area buildings (St. Ann; Heritage Baptist Church)
- Contact parents/guardians through Blackboard Connect
- Dismissal of students with transportation

Family Response - Please do not come to school campus.
- Do not call the school
- Listen to public information*
- Report to evacuation site to retrieve student

Imminent danger (unknown person, person with weapon)

School Response - Lock-down
- Students protected in rooms
- Building secured and local authorities take charge
- Contact parents/guardians through Blackboard Connect
- Students released once situation is resolved

Family Response - Please do not come to school campus.
- Do not call school/student
- Listen to public information*

Weather emergency (approaching storm, worsening roads)

School Response - Public announcement
- Contact parents/guardians through Blackboard Connect
- Dismissal of school

Family response - Plan ahead with student
- Do not call school/student
- Listen to public information*

Imminent weather event (tornado, severe wind)

School Response - Shelter in place until situation is over
- Contact parents/guardians through Blackboard Connect
- Dismiss students to safe locations only

Family Response - Plan ahead – Identify safe alternative destination
- Do not call school/student
- Listen to public information*

Regional disaster (act of terror/war, bio/chemical/nuclear accident, weather event)

School Response - Shelter students at school
- Follow directions of civil authorities
- Contact parents/guardians through Blackboard Connect
- Dismiss students to safe locations
- Evacuate as directed to regional site

Family Response - Plan ahead – Identify safe alternative destination
- Make plans for reunification
- Do not call school/student
- Listen to public information*

Dismissal

In all emergency cases involving dismissal of students, St. Thomas will record the destination of each student. Note: we do not keep track on early dismissal days (e.g. snow, progress report). Once students leave school, your family's planning will be critical. If we evacuate students to a regional site, that information will be announced through Blackboard Connect. Your family plans for reunification will be essential.

Tragedy in the STA community (student or teacher death)

School Response - Teachers will be briefed prior to school and have small group discussions during advisory
- Counseling, both spiritual and emotional

Family Response - Discussion/processing with student
- Contact with counselors as needed

Your role in an emergency

You will note that, in almost all cases, you are asked not to call or go to the school. Schools that have experienced emergencies report that parent phone calls create a major problem in responding to a situation. Additionally, emergency services may be delayed if phone lines and roadways are clogged by anxious parents. We will need our staff to protect and account for the students in our care; you must have confidence in your school.

Student cell phones

In emergency situations we will give students directions about the use of cell phones; best practice recommends that they initially be directed not to call anyone. Their safety will depend upon following those directions. An uninformed, fearful, or panicky call to you or to some other person will result in misinformation and possible danger for all of us involved. As soon as we can give students information about the situation, we will do so. We will then permit them to call you once they have accurate and useful information. Please instruct your child to cooperate on this point.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Emergency Number 911
Dover Police/Fire (603)-742-4646
St. Thomas Aquinas (603) 742-3206

PUBLIC INFORMATION*

Radio stations: WTSN, WBYY, WOKQ
TV station: WMUR (Channel 9)