

## **SEVERE WEATHER PROCEDURES AT DISMISSAL TIME**

The recent tragedy at Oakbrook Preparatory School underscores the danger that severe weather, including lightning, can pose. Per our safety procedures, during severe weather conditions such as thunderstorms/lightning/tornado warnings, students are brought into the building from outside activities and held inside until conditions are safe. Should dangerous weather conditions exist at the time of school dismissal, students may be sheltered inside until outside conditions are deemed safe. Parents who have arrived at the school to pick up their children may wait in their cars until students are dismissed, or they may park in a designated area and enter the school to pick up their children. (However, please be reminded that in the case of a lockdown event, when opening the school would compromise security, parents cannot be admitted to pick up students [see general safety message below].)

## **SAFETY MESSAGE FOR PARENTS**

Recognizing that schools are not immune to natural and manmade hazards, Spartanburg School District 2 and Chesnee High School have emergency plans in place for the safety and well-being of students and staff. These safety plans include provisions for school lockdowns and for evacuation to off-site shelters where parents may be asked to pick up their children in the event of certain crisis situations. We certainly hope that the need for these procedures is not realized. Should they become necessary, however, the cooperation of the community will be of utmost importance to ensure security and the unhampered efforts of emergency responders.

In the case of a school lockdown, parents and other citizens are urged not to come to the school until the lockdown has been lifted. Opening the school during a lockdown would breach security and could potentially endanger everyone in the building. Should an emergency response be called for, unobstructed access to the campus is very important, as response time can be a critical factor. In the case of an extended lockdown, media will be asked to communicate the situation and keep the public informed.

In the case of evacuation to an alternative location, media will be asked to announce the site for parents to safely reunite with their children. Students will be released only to authorized persons as specified in student records. To assure that students are properly accounted for, an orderly system for reunification will be established. Parent cooperation, understanding, and patience will help to make the process less trying.

The safety of your children is a priority for us, as it is with you. With your help, we will do everything possible to keep our school a safe and healthy “home away from home.”