



KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

SOLDOTNA MONTESSORI CHARTER SCHOOL
John DeVold, Administrator
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Dear SMCS Families:

Our staff is committed to providing the best learning environment for your children, as well as creating a safe environment every day at our school. What specifically do we do to ensure a safe and positive environment?

1. Our staff is trained in the required procedures and policies for a crisis. The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District response to critical incidents is based upon the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) concept of Comprehensive Emergency Management. The district's multilevel plan is interwoven with specific school plans. Every school has an emergency action plan.
2. Every staff member is trained in appropriate responses to classroom and school emergencies.
3. Every staff member has a specific assignment in case of a crisis or an emergency.
4. Several members of our staff are first aid certified.
5. Every classroom teacher has a flip chart that contains brief steps for various emergencies that teachers or substitutes can follow to protect students from harm in emergency situations. These emergency flip charts were created by our district with guidelines for emergencies such as weather related events, intruders, volcanic eruptions, response to fires, and chemical spills.
6. Every classroom teacher has a classroom set of emergency supplies. The school office has additional emergency supplies.
7. Teachers practice different scenarios with their students. Students have been taught specific procedures for school evacuation. We practice fire drills every month. We conduct earthquake drills annually and conduct an "A.L.I.C.E." or "intruder" drill twice annually. You will be notified when we conduct our "A.L.I.C.E." or "intruder" drill. Although actual emergencies do not follow a specific script, our students are knowledgeable about how to behave during emergencies.
8. We are conscientious about preventing harassment, teasing, or bullying. We deliberately work with our students on developing positive peer interaction skills. All adults respond to students with respect and courtesy, a foundational practice in Montessori schools.

Emergency preparedness is about planning in advance. Fortunately most of us will never have to test our plans, but we have a sense of well-being knowing we are prepared. If you have questions about our school safety plan, please contact me directly.

Sincerely,
John DeVold - SMCS Principal