

POWERSCHOOL IS UPDATED: If we need to notify parents of a drill or emergency situation, it is so important to have current information available in POWERSCHOOL! ☺ Check to assure your address, phone numbers, email address and students' bus numbers are accurate.

PARKING AND SAFETY: Lowell Scott parking lots are known for their congestion; however, ***we must assure they continue to be SAFE!*** Here are a few tips:

1. Please do not use the **west** entrance (the one closest to Eagle Rd) before or after school. This entrance and area of the parking lot is reserved for the loading and unloading of school buses. This main reason we close this section is for student safety during the dark morning hours. Our buses run on a very tight schedule.
2. The **center** (front) parking lot can become very congested with cars, particularly before and after school. We would ask that you use a designated parking space, especially if you are getting out of the vehicle, or are waiting for an extended period of time. ***Also, any blue painted segments indicate it is reserved for those with handicapped needs. PLEASE RESERVE THOSE FOR THAT PURPOSE!*** To help manage congestion during peak hours (before and after school) do not block the middle lane and park in a designated slot to help traffic flow smoothly and to assure we keep students (and adults) safe.

ALSO, PLEASE TURN OFF YOUR ENGINES TO HELP PRESERVE THE AIR QUALITY ON CAMPUS.

CROSSWALK AND HAWK LIGHT SYSTEM: HAWK - High -intensity Activated, crossWalk system.

Our crosswalk is an area that requires extra vigilance by both drivers and students crossing the street. At a HAWK crossing, drivers receive multiple cues to emphasize the potential presence of a pedestrian. These cues include a unique configuration of the HAWK beacon (two red lenses over a single yellow lens), a high-visibility crosswalk and school warning signs. When activated, the HAWK uses a red indication to inform drivers to stop, thereby creating a time period for pedestrians to cross the major roadway. The HAWK beacon is not illuminated until it is activated by a pedestrian, triggering the warning flashing yellow lens on the major street. After a set amount of time, the indication changes to a solid yellow light to inform drivers to prepare to stop. The beacon then displays a dual solid red light to drivers on the major street and a walking person symbol to pedestrians. At the conclusion of the walk phase, the beacon displays an alternating flashing red light, and pedestrians are shown an upraised hand symbol with a countdown display informing them of the time left to cross. During the alternating flashing red lights, drivers can proceed after coming to a full stop and checking that pedestrians have already crossed their lane of travel. Each successive driver is legally required to come to a full stop before proceeding during the alternating flashing red phase.

The alternating flashing red phase allows the driver delay to match the actual crossing needs of the pedestrian. Drivers can proceed with a stop-and-go operation during the flashing red phase if a pedestrian walks faster than the assumed walking speed and clears the lanes or roadway, as appropriate. If pedestrians need more time, then the drivers remain stopped until they finish crossing.

EVACUATION DRILLS: Monthly we participate in EVACUATION drills; all students/staff **leave the building in an orderly manner** with the classroom teacher and report to a designated location around campus. Attendance is taken and students known to be on campus, but not in the assigned class are identified through a system we have on campus. Should the building be determined not to be safe to return, we have a plan to relocate to one of our main alternate sites - Pioneer Elementary or Ustick Baptist. Parents and guardians would be notified via Blackboard of details.

LOCKDOWN DRILLS: Each semester we conduct LOCKDOWN drills in conjunction with local law enforcement. The **primary goal is to secure the building and keep students/staff safe** in a quiet, dark, barricaded location until law enforcement removes the potential threat. Students/staff are trained to "move" to a place of security, "hide" away from observable view of the threat and to barricade the door if possible, and to "fight" by defending the space, if appropriate,

with an improvised weapon such as a bat, golf club, etc. Our staff has been trained to put the school into lockdown using an internal phone code. During drills, you will be notified via Blackboard in advance.

Should a 'real' incident occur, our first priority is student safety and full access for law enforcement on the campus. **Parents/guardians will be notified as soon as it is feasible. PLEASE DO NOT COME OR CALL THE SCHOOL.** We need to keep our communication airwaves and our parking lots open for emergency responders. We have a full reunification plan in place that is annually reviewed with staff.

HALL CHECK: This procedure is implemented when a potential problem outside the campus occurs. Students/staff re-enter a building and remain "in place in a shelter" until the incident is cleared by the local police. **Learning continues within the classrooms, but behind locked doors.**

SAFETY BUCKETS: All classrooms are equipped with a safety bucket that contains supplies that would be useful in an emergency situation. Tissue, blanket, extra water and glucose, first aid supplies and a flashlight are all included.

DOGS in TRAINING: In conjunction with law enforcement agencies, Lowell Scott is a training site for service animals. During this scenario, students remain in the classrooms while training occurs in the hallways/lockers.

EARTHQUAKE AWARENESS: Although earthquakes are uncommon in Idaho, they do happen here and in other locations and it is important to know how to respond. The common procedure is to:



Why is it important to do a **Drop, Cover, and Hold On**? To react quickly you must practice often. You may only have seconds to protect yourself in an earthquake, before strong shaking knocks you down--or drops something on you. Practicing helps you be ready to respond.

If you are inside a building, move no more than a few steps, then Drop, Cover and Hold On:

- **DROP** to the ground (before the earthquake drops you!),
- Take **COVER** by getting under a sturdy desk or table, and
- **HOLD ON** to it until the shaking stops. Stay indoors till the shaking stops and you are sure it is safe to exit. In most buildings in Idaho you are safer if you stay where you are until the shaking stops.

If you are outdoors when the shaking starts, you should find a clear spot away from buildings, trees, streetlights, and power lines, then Drop, Cover and Hold On. Stay there until the shaking stops. If you are driving, pull over to a clear location, stop and stay there with your seatbelt fastened until the shaking stops. Once the shaking stops, proceed with caution and avoid bridges or ramps that might have been damaged. Ground shaking during an earthquake is seldom the cause of injury. Most earthquake-related injuries and deaths are caused by collapsing walls and roofs, flying glass and falling objects. It is extremely important for a person to move as little as possible to reach the place of safety he or she has identified because most injuries occur when people try to move more than a short distance during the shaking. Look around you now, before an earthquake. Identify safe places such as under a sturdy piece of furniture or against an interior wall in your home, office or school so that when the shaking starts you can respond quickly. An immediate response to move to the safe place can save lives. And that safe place should be within a few steps to avoid injury from flying debris. <https://www.shakeout.org/idaho>

INCLEMENT WEATHER PLAN: With the coming of winter storms, West Ada School District is planning and ready for the possibility of school closures. The decision to close schools is a process which is not taken lightly by the district. As storms approach, district staff monitor weather forecasts in preparation to check road conditions during the night and into the early morning before the start of school. If school is cancelled because of poor road conditions, information about the closure will be posted on the district website and local media will also be notified.

The decision to close school needs to be made between 5 a.m. and 6 a.m. on the morning school will be closed in order to have adequate time to alert parents, students, staff and the community of the school closure. [See Policy 601.2 for Adverse Condition/Emergency Closure](#)

Television: Channel 2, KBCI; Channel 6, KIVI; Channel 7, KTVB

AM Radio Stations: KBOI, 670; KIDO, 630; KGEM, 1140

FM Radio Stations: KJOT, 105; K-106, 106; K-LITE, 104; KHEZ, 103.3; KIZN, 93.1; KBSU, 90.3

PowerSchool is the district's online student information system. PowerSchool provides a way for parents and students to track attendance, grades and class schedules. The district will relay messages regarding school events, reminders, school closures and more using the contact information provided by families in their PowerSchool accounts. If you have previously opted out of receiving text messages and wish to receive them again, please respond to a West Ada text or send the message SUBSCRIBE WESTADA to 23177.

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY POINTS:

During October, all students will review this information and view the video accessed through this link. <https://www.sticareers.com/videos> Scroll down for the 6-12th grade.

Students riding a school bus should always:

- Arrive at the bus stop five minutes early.
- Stand at least 5 giant steps (10 feet) away from the edge of the road.
- Wait until the bus stops, the door opens, and the driver says it's okay before stepping onto the bus.
- Be careful that clothing with drawstrings and book bags with straps or dangling objects do not get caught in the handrail or door when exiting the bus.
- Check both ways for cars before stepping off the bus.

Crossing students should:

- Walk in front of the bus; never walk behind the bus.
- Walk on the sidewalk or along the side of the road to a point at least 10 giant steps ahead of the bus.
- Be sure the bus driver can see them, and they can see the bus driver.
- Wait for the driver's signal to cross.

Things Kids Should know About School Bus Safety:

- The bus driver and others cannot see you if you are standing closer than 10 feet to the bus.
- Stay out of the danger zone!
- If something falls under or near the bus, tell the driver. NEVER try to pick it up yourself!

- While waiting for the bus, stay in a safe place away from the street.
- When you get on or off the bus, look for the bus safety lights and make sure they are flashing.
- Be alert to traffic. When you get on or off the bus, look left, right, left before you enter or cross the street.
- When the driver says it is safe to cross the street, remember to **CROSS IN FRONT** of the bus.
- Stay in your seat and sit quietly so that the driver is not distracted

ATTENDANCE AND TARDY INFORMATION: Here's the information in the student handbook regarding attendance, tardies and makeup work.

ATTENDANCE PROCEDURE: Idaho law requires any person under sixteen years of age be enrolled in school. State law also requires each school district to establish an attendance policy. The Middle School Attendance Policy can be found in Appendix E of this handbook.

When a student is absent from school a parent or guardian should call the school by 10:00 a.m. that day with the following information:

- a) parent or guardian's name
- b) student's name
- c) reason for absence
- d) estimated date of return

If no call has been made the student must provide the main office with a note from a parent or guardian stating the reason and dates of the absence. **After 48 hours, unverified absences will be noted as a truancy.** Students who arrive at school after the first tardy bell should report to the main office to sign in.

Students are allowed six (6) absences per class period during the semester. Students who receive seven (7) absences in any class will lose credit unless cleared by the attendance office as extraordinary within five (5) days of the absence. Verbal communication must come from a parent/guardian within 48 hours of the absence to prevent truancy.

The following absences count against a student's total of six (6) absences: Illness (Ill), Out of School Suspension (OSS), Parent Call (PRC), Truancy (TR), Unverified (A), Verified (VER)

EXCESSIVE ABSENCES: If a student is absent for fifteen (15) consecutive school days, whether or not the absences are verified, the student will be dis-enrolled from school. At the time the student returns to school, the student may be re-enrolled. Students served by homebound tutors or absent due to illness documented by licensed medical personnel will not be included in this procedure.

MAKE-UP WORK: After an absence, it is the student's responsibility to communicate with the teacher for make-up work. The student must complete and turn in work within a reasonable time in accordance with the teacher's late work policy.

TARDIES: Students are considered tardy if not in their assigned classrooms when the tardy bell rings. Tardies accrue on a semester basis. The tardy policy incorporates the following:

First Tardy	--	Teacher warns student **
Second Tardy	--	Documented in PowerSchool
Third Tardy	--	Student assigned to designated detention and parent notified by school
Additional Tardies	--	Administrative Discretion

**** Parents please note: Only students riding school provided transportation shall be eligible for excused tardies. All other tardies and late arrivals (except from medical appointments) are considered unexcused.**