



**BRIDGES MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
BELONG | LEARN | SOAR  
FIND YOUR PLACE | SPREAD YOUR WINGS

## Safety & Emergency Preparedness Plan

School Address: 1638 NW Overton Street | Portland, OR 97209

Prepared For: Students, Families, Faculty, and Staff of Bridges Middle School

Date: September 10, 2025

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### A Holistic View of Safety

Safety at Bridges is not just about responding to emergencies—it is about creating a school culture where every student feels seen, valued, and protected. From our choice of designated meeting areas to the ways in which we staff recess and transitions, every part of our plan has been built with the understanding that true safety is both physical and emotional.

We are committed to ongoing reflection and improvement. As we settle into our new campus and learn more about how our spaces function, we will continue to make adjustments—such as adding sound-dampening materials or refining procedures—to best meet the needs of our students.

Our goal is that in any situation—whether a drill, an unexpected emergency, or a daily transition—students will feel confident that the adults around them are prepared, compassionate, and fully committed to their safety.

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## Our Commitment to Safety

At Bridges Middle School, the safety and well-being of our students and staff are at the heart of every decision we make. We believe that safety planning must go beyond compliance and protocols—it must reflect compassion, foresight, and an understanding of the unique needs of the young people in our care.

Our school community is proudly neurodiverse, with students who bring a wide range of strengths, learning styles, and challenges. We know that traditional safety plans often overlook the ways in which sensory sensitivities, difficulties with transitions, and changes in routine can create additional stress for our students during emergencies. For that reason, this safety plan has been carefully designed with intentional strategies to minimize distress, maximize clarity, and provide a sense of security for all members of our community.

### Compassionate and Intentional Safety Planning

- **Predictability:** Whenever possible, we prepare students in advance for drills and changes to routine, recognizing that sudden disruptions can be particularly difficult for those who thrive on structure and consistency.
  - **Clear Communication:** Instructions are presented in multiple formats—visual, verbal, and modeled—so that students with different communication preferences and processing speeds can understand and follow them.
  - **Supportive Environments:** Recognizing that noise, crowding, and overstimulation can overwhelm students with sensory sensitivities, we have established quiet safe zones, smaller group evacuation options, and sound-dampening adjustments to make emergency procedures less distressing.
  - **Staff Preparedness:** Every adult on campus is trained not only in safety protocols but also in strategies to support students who may freeze, panic, or struggle with unexpected changes. Staff will remain calm, compassionate, and reassuring, modeling safety and stability in moments of uncertainty.
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## Emergency Evacuation Plan – Fire & Earthquake

*Location: 1638 NW Overton Street, Portland, OR*

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### General Safety Principles

- Remain calm and listen to staff instructions at all times.
  - Teachers and staff are responsible for escorting their students to designated safe zones.
  - Attendance will be taken at the designated safe zones to ensure all students and staff are accounted for.
  - Do not return to the building until it has been cleared and authorized by emergency officials.
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### Accountability & Communication

- Teachers immediately take attendance at the safe zones and report any missing students to the designated safety lead.
  - The school administrator or designated safety officer will coordinate with emergency services and provide updates to staff and families as quickly as possible.
  - Students are released to parents/guardians only after official clearance and confirmation through the school's reunification protocol.
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### Staff Reminders

- Keep class rosters and emergency contacts readily accessible.
  - Familiarize yourself with all exits and evacuation routes.
  - Practice evacuation drills regularly with your students so procedures become routine.
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NW 19th AVE

Earthquake Safezone

BMS CAMPUS  
1638 NW OVERTON ST,  
PDX 97209

NW OVERTON ST

Fire Safezone  
NE Corner  
of Lot Under  
Overpass

NW PETTYGROVE ST

NW 15th AVE

NW 18th AVE

PARKING LOT

PARKING LOT



DoveLewis



SAFE

movemk

# Fire Evacuation Plan

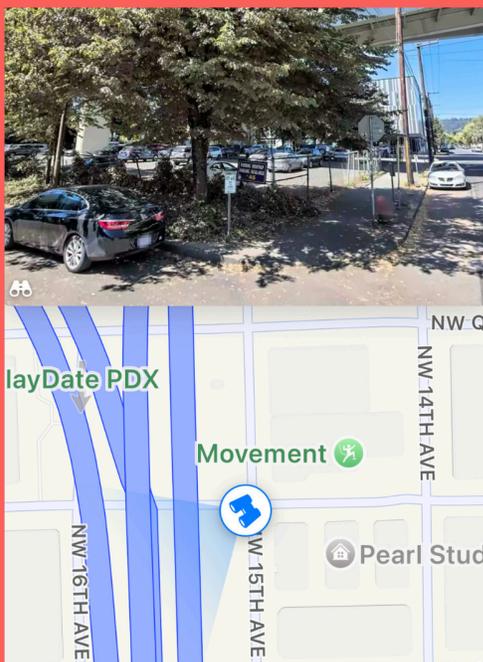
## Immediate Actions

1. **Alarm & Evacuation:** When the fire alarm sounds or a fire is observed, all staff and students must evacuate immediately.
2. **Routes:** Use the nearest safe exit. Do not use elevators. Move swiftly but do not run.
3. **Staff Duties:** Teachers lead students out in a calm and orderly manner, bringing attendance rosters with them. Designated staff check bathrooms, commons, and other shared spaces if safely possible.

## Safe Zone

- **Primary Fire Safe Zone:** The parking lot beneath the I-405 overpass, located at the northeast corner of NW 15th Ave & Pettygrove St.
- Classes gather in assigned areas within the lot, grouped by homeroom for quick attendance.

# FIRE SAFETY



- Lead to the nearest exit
- Meet: 15<sup>TH</sup> AND PETTYGROVE (in the parking lot under 405)
- Take attendance
- Report missing students
- Bring roster

# Earthquake Evacuation Plan

## Immediate Actions (During Shaking)

1. Drop, Cover, Hold On:
  - Drop to hands and knees.
  - Take cover under a desk, table, or sturdy furniture.
  - Hold on until shaking stops.
2. Away from Furniture/Windows: If cover is not available, move against an interior wall away from windows and overhead objects. Protect the head and neck with arms.

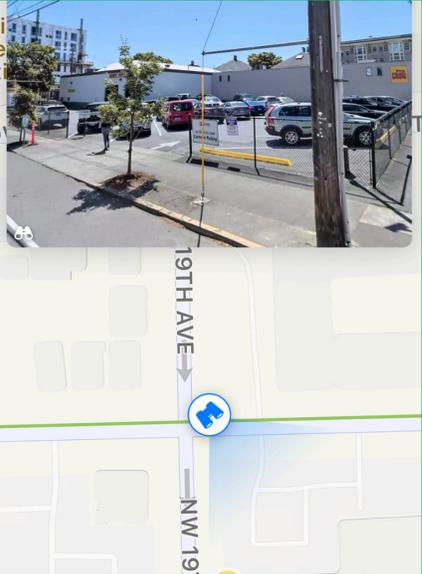
## After Shaking Stops

1. Evacuation: Staff escort students outside using the nearest safe exit. Avoid stairwells or exits that appear damaged.
2. No Re-Entry: Do not return to the building until cleared by authorities.

## Safe Zone

- Primary Earthquake Safe Zone: The Les Schwab Tire Center parking lot at NW 19th Ave & Northrup St.
- Classes gather in assigned spaces for roll call and supervision.

# EARTHQUAKE SAFETY



- DROP, COVER, HOLD ON
- Evacuate after shaking
- Meet: 19TH & NORTHRUP
- (*Les Schwab Lot*)
- Take attendance
- Report missing students
- Bring roster

## 24/7 Locked Campus for Enhanced Safety

At Bridges, the safety and well-being of our students, staff, and community is our highest priority. To ensure a secure environment, our campus remains locked at all times, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This controlled-access system helps to:

- Prevent unauthorized entry: Only students, staff, and approved visitors can enter through secured access points.
- Enhance monitoring: Locked entryways allow staff to track and manage who is coming onto campus, reducing risks.
- Support emergency readiness: A secured perimeter enables quicker lockdowns and more effective safety responses in the event of an emergency.
- Provide peace of mind: Families and staff can feel confident knowing that the campus is safeguarded around the clock.

This security measure is part of a comprehensive safety plan that also includes supervision protocols, visitor check-in requirements, emergency drills, and close coordination with local law enforcement and emergency services.

## Drills

In the event of an actual emergency, quick and automatic response is the best way to ensure student safety. Bridges executes drills periodically throughout the year to ensure students, staff, and faculty are extremely familiar with the procedures for a variety of emergency situations. Earthquake drills are performed at least twice a year. Fire drills are performed monthly. Dates for all drills are logged and kept on file. All students are expected and required to participate in each drill respectfully and intentionally.

## Accidents at School

If a child is injured at school, staff will assess the nature of the injury and decide whether medical services are required. If emergency services are necessary, staff will ensure the student is taken to a hospital and will notify parents as soon as possible. Regardless of whether emergency services are required, an injury report form will be completed and placed in the student's file.

## First Aid

All staff members maintain certification in First Aid/CPR and receive updated training for recertification every two years. A first aid kit is maintained at school and in any Bridges-operated motor vehicle.