Dear Parents, Guardians, and Community Members,

Did you know that your child’s school is equipped with ShakeAlert® earthquake early warning (EEW) technology? Earthquake early warning (EEW) could play an important role in keeping your child safe at school during shaking from an earthquake.

EEW relies on earthquake information from the U.S. Geological Survey. When earthquake shaking is expected, an alert automatically plays through the school's PA system, providing valuable time for students to protect themselves before harmful shaking arrives. We will conduct an earthquake drill using this new EEW technology. Please ask your children to tell you what they do to protect themselves if they feel shaking or get an alert!

Scientists cannot predict exactly when an earthquake will occur but agree that it could happen at any time. You can sign up for free to receive EEW alerts on your phone. EEW can save lives and reduce injuries by providing people with valuable seconds to take protective action, such as Drop, Cover, and Hold On, or to move away from hazardous areas before shaking begins.

Oregon and Washington experience fewer earthquakes than California. However, the Pacific Northwest is also earthquake country. For more information about earthquake risk in the Pacific Northwest, watch this video: [Pacific Northwest: Three types of tectonic earthquakes](https://www.iris.edu/hq/inclass/animation/pacific_northwest_three_types_of_tectonic_earthquakes).

Because we live in areas that will experience earthquakes, it is vital to be prepared. *(Visit* [*this website*](https://sites.google.com/pps.net/family-engagement-letter-links?usp=sharing) *for more information or scan the QR code.)* You can:

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| *Scan QR code to find more information about preparing your family for an earthquake.* | * [Sign up](https://www.usgs.gov/faqs/how-do-i-sign-shakealertr-earthquake-early-warning-system) to receive ShakeAlert-powered EEW alerts. * Make sure every family member knows your [emergency plan](https://www.ready.gov/plan), including phone numbers and a meeting place. * Put together an Earthquake [Supply Kit](https://www.ready.gov/kit). * [Secure your space](https://www.earthquakecountry.org/step1/) by identifying hazards and securing moveable items. * [Practice](https://www.earthquakecountry.org/step5/) with your family and community members how to respond if the ground shakes or if you get an alert. Practice regularly and in different locations. * Connect with your state’s [emergency management department](https://www.caloes.ca.gov/). Here are links for your state emergency management offices. |

Thank you for helping our community to be prepared and resilient!

Sincerely,

**[school name]**

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| Sign up for ShakeAlert® powered Earthquake Early Warning alerts.  For more information, visit:  [*www.usgs.gov/faqs/how-do-i-sign-shakealertr-earthquake-early-warning-system*](https://www.usgs.gov/faqs/how-do-i-sign-shakealertr-earthquake-early-warning-system) | Create an Emergency Plan with your family including contact phone numbers, a meeting place, and medical information.  For more information, visit:  [*www.ready.gov/plan*](https://www.ready.gov/plan) | | Prepare an Emergency Supply Kit, including 1 gallon of water per person per day for several days, medications, and food.  For more information, visit:  [*www.ready.gov/kit*](https://www.ready.gov/kit) |
| Secure your space by identifying hazards and securing moveable objects.  For more information, visit:  [*www.earthquakecountry.org/step1/*](https://www.earthquakecountry.org/step1/) | | Practice how to respond if you feel shaking or get an alert with your family and community in a variety of spaces and situations.  For more information, visit:  [*www.earthquakecountry.org/step5/*](https://www.earthquakecountry.org/step5/) | |

