

To: Parents/Guardians of Pennfield Students
From: Dr. Dale Kimball, Superintendent
Subject: Student Safety/War With Iraq
Date: March 20, 2003

I am writing to you in hopes of helping to answer some questions that you may have and to help reassure you of the Pennfield Schools' efforts to keep your children safe at all times, and especially during the turbulent time we are now going through in our country. All schools in the Pennfield District have "Crisis Plans" in place that deal with specific instances that can and sometimes do occur in schools. These plans deal with anything from chemical releases, to suicides, to hostage situations...just about anything that could happen in a school.

In recent communications from the State Superintendent of Schools, Tom Watkins, schools have been notified that if our alert level were to move from "orange" to "red" that school districts should keep students in school unless the Michigan State Police ask that schools be closed. The Pennfield Schools will honor that request. We will be communicating with law enforcement daily to make sure that there have been no threats against schools in Michigan. If intelligence information is shared with us that there is a danger, students will be sent home and schools will be closed.

We don't anticipate that there will be any instances where schools are targeted, and we believe students are just as safe in school as they are at home. We believe it is important to try to keep our students' lives as normal as possible, and that is what we will attempt to do. If some type of emergency does occur, information on school closing will be available on the same radio and television stations that the Pennfield Schools contact for weather related emergencies. Information may also be available on our District web site (www.pennfield.k12.mi.us). The Pennfield Schools will make every effort not to release students during the middle of a school day. However, you should make plans for such a release and discuss them with your children so that both you and they will be prepared. As the parent or guardian, you always have the right to determine if conditions are unsafe for your child. Following the same guidelines we use during severe weather, if you believe that it would be safer for your child to be home, you may pick your child up at school and the absence will be excused.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the office of the school your child attends.