Dear Families,

As we begin a new school year, student safety and comfort is a top concern. This is also fire season, and it is important that schools and families prepare for both wildfires and power outages. Anticipating these occurrences, we want to provide you with the following information to keep you informed about school safety protocols and to help you and your family prepare.

You will receive an automatic call from the school stating the emergency closure and the location of the student release area.

If the schools are closing, please follow the procedures below:

* Child is released to an adult over 18 years of age and is on the emergency form
* Students will only be released to persons with a photo ID
* Go to the student release area stated in the auto call
* Fill out student release form
* Wait for the release team to verify information
* Your child will be released to you by the student release team
* Please do not go to your child’s classroom as they will be locked and inaccessible
* Please do not phone the school as phones lines need to remain open for communication
* Check our Facebook page for updates

Sincerely,

Deborah Bertolucci Nyla Quintana-Sturgis

Superintendent/GNTA Principal GES Principal

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## Wildfire Smoke

[These air quality guidelines](https://www.scoe.org/files/Guidelines_-_English_%282%29.pdf) were developed by Sonoma County school districts to provide guidance for how to protect student health when air quality is poor due to a wildfire or other disaster. They are aligned with [guidance provided by a coalition of state agencies](http://blog.csba.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/AirQualityGuidelines.pdf?_cldee=amhhbnNlbkBzY29lLm9yZw%3d%3d&recipientid=contact-1e3e2e5b430fe71180f1005056b02a09-d630a97fa0c0474e856f38187c1e9454&esid=4e3bd0c0-c59d-e911-8121-005056b02a09) in the spring of 2019. These guidelines are meant to be adapted by each school district in consideration of local conditions. Geyserville Unified will follow the air quality guidelines set forth by the Sonoma County Office of Education. More information and resources are also provided on the [California Department of Education website.](https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/ep/airquality.asp)

## Power Outages

As you may be aware, PG&E is prepared to implement Public Safety Power Shutoffs (also known as de-energization) when weather conditions put parts of our community at a high risk for fire. This important precaution is meant to help reduce the risk of wildfires.

It is important to note that power outages are not new to our county—indeed, many rural schools regularly experience outages due to inclement weather. Standard practice in the county has been to cancel class if a power outage is expected to last more than two hours. In the event of a planned PG&E power outage, we will cancel class for *any schools expected to be impacted for more than two hours.* Please note, power outages may not impact all schools within our district at the same time. In this case, only the schools with power outages will be closed.

Our aim is to communicate our intent to close school *as soon as reasonably possible* after receiving a notice of an upcoming power outage from PG&E. In some cases, this may come on short notice. As well, if a power outage occurs mid-day, we will handle closures on a case-by-case basis, taking into account factors such as the anticipated length of the outage, temperature, and weather/road conditions.

In all cases, student safety will be our top priority.

## Making Up School Days

Should we need to close school for either of the above reasons, our district will first make up classes by using two emergency days built into our school calendar. If we must be closed for additional days, then we will make up class on one or more of the designated Emergency Closure Days.

## Resources

Following are some resources to help your family prepare personally:

* Ready.gov: [General Power-Outage Information](https://www.ready.gov/power-outages) | [Fact-sheet on power outages for kids](https://www.ready.gov/kids/know-the-facts/power-outages)
* PG&E: [Public Safety Power Shutoff](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1e8mcX--phnQm4OnLVXpPps-yLlJRPZbK) (including resident alert notification instructions)
* [Preparing for Public Safety Power Shutoff](https://prepareforpowerdown.com/)
* [Power of Being Prepared Fact Sheet](http://prepareforpowerdown.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Statewide_FactSheet_0503.pdf)
* PG&E: [Emergency Supply Checklist](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1eCOV7mtrfuCIVxO79XIzE_2Kc9bxECgt)
* California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection: [Homeowner’s Checklist](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1e9U64pVE-defl7gK7I_Rq-incoJRYazw)
* PG&E: [Community Safety Measures](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1eJG9_yhZQ-wsBUxjkSmqTmkkHio2Ma3k)

\*\*All resources and links will be placed on [www.gusd.com](http://www.gusd.com) website.