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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Estacada School District Will Conduct October Reunification Drill

ESTACADA, Or.— Beginning this school year, the Estacada School District will be conducting one reunification drill annually, starting with the reunification of all elementary students and families on October 10th at 2:00 at the Estacada First Baptist Church. Family reunification is the means for safe and orderly reunion of students with their families in the event of an emergency evacuation or school closure. This drill will be conducted in cooperation with local law enforcement.

After school, all elementary students will be bused to this reunification site, where parents or other designated emergency contacts will go through the process of picking their child up. Families will be guided through a line before being reunited with their child, and will need to bring photo I.D.

The district is hosting this event to ensure that staff and families are both familiar with the procedures of reunification required after an emergency event. District Superintendent Ryan Carpenter notes that "We do fire and lockdown drills regularly to ensure that our students and staff are familiar with routines that may keep them safe. This is no different, and we are enthusiastic about the opportunity to involve and inform parents in such an important piece of responding to a potential emergency."

While Carpenter acknowledges that it may be inconvenient for some families, the district feels that safety and preparedness have to take first priority. Carpenter states that "in the event of an actual emergency, we want our parents to be

equipped with knowledge of where, how, and when to pick up their children. This is just another piece that can improve communication, and we hope that this can give parents some peace of mind."

Reunifications can be time-consuming. The district acknowledges this reality, and is eager for the opportunity to practice, so that when an actual emergency occurs both district and families can work together with improved efficiency and speed to reunify families and children.

ABOUT ESTACADA SCHOOL DISTRICT – The Estacada School District's mission is to equip every student with the knowledge and skills necessary to be resourceful and successful. For more information, contact: Maggie Kelly at 503-630-6871 x2911.

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