

Flemington-Raritan Regional School District
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Dear Flemington-Raritan Regional School District Faculty, Staff, Parents, and Community Members,

This week in our school community, we had two separate incidents where an individual reported suspicious activity. Each report of suspicious activity or a potential threat is taken very seriously and investigated thoroughly. In these two incidents, the suspicious activities were reported to the police. No additional information was necessary for the community. If it is determined that a threat is viable and notification to the community is warranted, communication will be sent through our district messaging system.

We continue to ask all students, staff members, community residents, and family members to remain vigilant. Please report ANY and ALL suspicious activity to school administrators immediately. It is always best to err on the side of caution and let an investigation occur if needed. It is imperative that we all work together as a Community of One to keep everyone safe at all times. Our collaboration together is key to our success.

As a reminder, a Class III officer is assigned to each school to provide safety, security, and on-site support to students, faculty, staff members, and visitors. They are Officer Mike Fitzpatrick, Officer Darren Powell, Officer Craig Santoro, Officer John Carney, Officer Ed Purcell, and Officer Craig Monda. Our officers are all retired law enforcement officers who have served as fully-trained, full-time police officers in New Jersey. In addition, one of our vice principals serves as a district safety specialist, and the district's Director of Educational Facilities, Operations, and Security supports efforts to ensure buildings and grounds are secure.

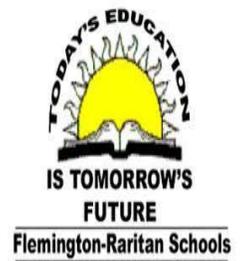
Our security team members ensure that security protocols are followed. Our Class III Officers help provide a safe learning environment for students, teachers, faculty, and staff. They are trained law enforcement professionals who can respond quickly to any emergency or threat that may arise on campus, helping to prevent violence and ensure that students feel safe. Moreover, our Class III Officers help to deter criminal activity by maintaining a visible presence on campus and serve as positive role models for students.

As a reminder, our school doors are never propped open. Visitors are only allowed entrance to the school through the front office only.

Following advice from law authorities, we recommend having conversations with your children:

- Remind your child that our school doors are never propped open for any reason. Students, faculty, staff, and parents should not hold the door open for visitors but allow visitors to enter only through the school's front office. No one should prop a door open, and all outside doors should be locked so that no outside visitors can enter the school through a door other than the front of the school.
- Talk with your child that any threat made will be thoroughly investigated and consequences are severe. Words matter. Threats can come in the form of conversations, writings, emails, and or social media posts using suggestive words or images, or even remarks made from one person to another.
- If your child has questions, please reassure them that they are safe and ensure they know they can come to you or our team members to discuss any aspect of a school threat and their safety. Our administrators and our district security team, including our Class III Officers, are always here to serve, protect, and inform.

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- Monitor your child's social media accounts and talk to him or her about using social media responsibly.
- If you see something, say something. Report any suspicious activity immediately. Do not forward or share the threat until the proper authorities have had a chance to investigate it. Doing so could cause panic or spread misinformation.

To help prevent school violence and support the whole child, our District partners with Effective Schools Solutions (ESS) to support students who are struggling. ESS provides services through licensed clinicians and therapeutic counselors and supports families during the school day and evening hours. Individual, group, and family counseling sessions support our students identified as in need of intensive social-emotional support. Effective School Solutions supports our comprehensive school support system to identify students early and provide interventions that lead to better outcomes for students.

The District remains steadfast and unwavering in ensuring student safety. We work in tandem with our police force and Class III Officers, who are highly-trained experts, to identify and thwart any potential crisis while providing intensive care, support, and resources to struggling students and their families.

If you or someone you know needs help or support, please reach out to your school counselor for assistance. There are resources, guidance, and people who are ready, able, and committed to providing support and help. We all play a role in keeping our schools safe. Our partnership together is necessary to maintain safe schools for all.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kari McGann
Superintendent of Schools

Reference: Department of Homeland Security: ["If you see something, say something."](#)