

August 28, 2023

Dear Flemington-Raritan Parents,

When I began as Superintendent of Schools six years ago, members of the Board of Education and I set a goal for the Flemington-Raritan Regional School District to partner with Raritan Township and Flemington Borough to hire an additional officer each school year until all schools had one full-time officer in each school. Last summer, we reached that goal. I am pleased to share that all our Class III Officers will return to our school district for the 2023-2024 school year. Our district remains committed to the safety of our students, faculty, staff, and schools, and this school year, we will add another safety feature to the Flemington Raritan School District.

Flemington-Raritan Regional School District Class III Officers:

- Officer Mike Fitzpatrick at J. P. Case Middle School
- Officer Craig Santoro at Reading Fleming Intermediate School
- Officer Craig Monda at Copper Hill Elementary School
- Officer Darren Powell at Francis A. Desmares Elementary School
- Officer John Carney at Barley Sheaf Elementary School
- Officer Edward Purcell at Robert Hunter Elementary School

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

Please remind your child that our school doors are never propped open for any reason. Students, faculty, staff, visitors, 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.

An additional safety feature has begun in the Flemington Raritan School District. We are pleased to announce that we will begin using the Raptor Visitor Management System in all our schools to strengthen our campus safety program for students and faculty. Part of keeping students and faculty safe is knowing who is in our buildings at all times, and the Raptor system will allow us to do that. The District is working diligently to have each school's Raptor Visitor Management System ready for the start of the school year. The Raptor system will better allow us to screen visitors, contractors, and volunteers in our schools and provide us with a safer environment for our students and staff. Building Principals will be sharing more information with their individual school communities.

Upon entering a district building, visitors will be asked to present an ID, such as a Driver's License, which can either be scanned or manually entered into the system. If a parent or guardian for any reason does not have a US government-issued ID, the school staff member can use any form of identification and manually enter the person's

Strategic Goals:

Goal Area #1: The District will provide a comprehensive and rigorous educational experience that connects and expands students' knowledge while engaging and empowering all learners to synthesize and apply their skills and understandings in meaningful ways.

Goal Area #2: Develop a continuation of a multi-tiered system of support within the district to target the social, emotional, and mental health needs of students.

Goal Area #3: The district will create opportunities to foster unity between the community and the school district in order to strengthen partnerships and develop a shared responsibility for student success.

Goal Area #4: Create an enticing and competitive work environment to attract and retain high-quality candidates representative of students' diverse backgrounds in the Flemington Raritan Regional School District community.

Goal Area #5: Ensure the finance and facilities needs are budgeted to upkeep and meet the needs of the growing district.

name into the Raptor system. The Raptor system will check to ensure that registered sexual offenders are not entering our school campuses without our knowledge. The Raptor system checks the visitor's name and date of birth for comparison with a national database of registered sex offenders. The registered sex offender database is the only official database checked by the Raptor system. No other data from the ID is gathered or recorded, and the information is not shared with any outside agency. Once entry is approved, Raptor will issue a badge that identifies the visitor, the date, and the purpose of his/her visit. All visitors will still be required to wear a red visitor lanyard while visiting our schools, along with the badge issued by the Raptor Visitor Information System. A visitor's badge will not be necessary for those who visit our schools simply to drop off an item in the office or pick up paperwork.

The safety of our students is our highest priority, and the Raptor visitor management system allows us to quickly identify those who may present a danger to our students. Thank you in advance for your understanding and support in enhancing our district's school safety protocols.

Watch for the first 2023-2024 Superintendent's newsletter, which will be published soon with updates and information about the 2023-2024 school year. We look forward to welcoming back our students on Thursday, September 7, 2023.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kari McGann
Superintendent of Schools

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