

September 15, 2023

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

The first Superintendent Talk-a-Latte is scheduled for Wednesday, September 27, and will focus on school safety. [Use this link to register](#). As a reminder of our safety, as Superintendent of Schools, I am in contact with local law enforcement and our Class III Officers regarding safety and our schools. I keep informed about issues affecting schools throughout Hunterdon County. If notification to our district is needed about concerns for the safety of our students, information will be provided.

As shared with parents in my August 28 security letter, [linked here](#), each of our schools has a Class III officer assigned to provide safety, security and on-site support. Our Class III officers are retired law enforcement officers who previously served as fully-trained, full-time police officers in New Jersey. In addition, one of our vice principals serves as a district safety specialist. He has completed specialized training, serves as chairperson of the District Security Committee, and assists the Superintendent in decision making on safety and security in the district. Additionally, the district's Director of Educational Facilities, Operations and Security supports efforts to ensure buildings and grounds are secure. The team is notified any time there are issues that may be of concern with regard to safety and security.

Please be reminded that as part of the 2019 referendum, the district installed an upgraded security system through a contract with DataComm. Our schools' safety measures were improved with a lockdown and emergency notification system which allows us to immediately alert everyone on school grounds of a lockdown, active threat, or other emergency event.

A reminder about visitors:

As shared with parents in my August 28 security letter, [linked here](#), the district is using the Raptor Visitor Management System to strengthen safety procedures. Part of keeping students and faculty safe is knowing who is in our buildings at all times; the Raptor system assists us in doing that. The Raptor system screens visitors, contractors, and volunteers in our schools and provides us with a safer environment for our students and staff.

Upon entering a district building, visitors are asked to present an ID, such as a Driver's License, which can either be scanned or manually entered into the system. If a visitor does not have a US government-issued ID, the school staff member can use any form of identification and manually enter the person's name into the Raptor system. The Raptor system ensures that registered sex offenders are not entering our schools 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 issues 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 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.

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.

Our district remains vigilant about security. Please be reminded that if there are district-wide safety and security messages such as security drills, power outages, or other crises that require district-wide communication, those messages and alerts will come from the Superintendent's office. If you have any concerns or questions about safety and security, please reach out to your building principal.

It continues to be an honor to serve as your Superintendent.

Sincerely,



Dr. Kari McGann
Superintendent of Schools

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