



Subject: Important Update: School Safety Following Earthquake

April 5, 2024

Dear Members of the Flemington-Raritan Regional School District,

We hope this message finds you and your loved ones safe and well. As you may be aware, our region experienced an earthquake today, which may have caused concern for the safety of our students and staff. As always, our priority remains the safety and well-being of our students, staff, and families. Immediately following the earthquake, our school administrators and teachers quickly reassured students they were safe. The unexpected event quickly became a teachable moment in our classrooms.

I visited every school in the District today. All around Flemington-Raritan Regional School District, classrooms were abuzz with what causes earthquakes and the faults in our area. Students at RFIS and J.P. Case talked specifically about the Ramapo Fault. I happened to be at Francis A. Desmares Elementary School with second graders when we suddenly felt the Earth trembling! Nathan, a second grader, shared with me and the other second graders around him that the tectonic plates shifted, causing the ground beneath them to move. The second graders then discussed the sounds they heard and the things they saw and felt. Later this afternoon, while visiting Copper Hill Elementary School one of our youngest students, a preschooler said, "*My body was moving all around!*"

Here are a few updates about the safety protocols in our District following the earthquake:

- **Safety Inspections:** Immediately following the earthquake, our maintenance and safety teams conducted comprehensive inspections of all school buildings and facilities. These inspections include checks for structural integrity, electrical systems, gas lines, and other essential components.
- **No Significant Damage:** We are pleased to report that none of our school buildings have sustained any damage. No issues were identified during inspections, which will continue throughout the afternoon and evening hours to ensure the continued safety of everyone in our District.
- **Classes Continued as Scheduled:** Based on the results of the safety inspections, classes continued as scheduled.
- **Counseling Support:** We understand that unexpected occurrences like earthquakes can be distressing for children and families. Our school counselors and support staff are



available to assist students who may be experiencing anxiety or emotional distress related to the earthquake. Please don't hesitate to contact us if your child needs support.

- Stay Informed: As always, we will keep you informed of any developments. We encourage you to stay connected with us through our official communication channels, including email, text messages, and social media.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kari McGann
Superintendent of Schools
Flemington-Raritan Regional School District