



METUCHEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Superintendent

16 Simpson Place

Metuchen, New Jersey 08840

Vincent Caputo, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Phone: (732) 321-8700 Ext. 1016
Fax: (732) 321-6567

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Dear Parents/Guardians:

As individuals and a community, we are appalled by the horrific events in Parkland, Florida last week. Our hearts go out to the families, staff, and community of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. We cannot imagine what they are going through.

In these times, we reconfirm that the safety of our students is of paramount importance to us. We continue to work in close collaboration with the Metuchen Police Department to ensure the security of our schools. While the MPD has requested that we not share the details of our protocols, over the last several years we have invested significant effort and resources in improving our security posture and preparations. These include:

- close coordination with and training from the MPD, including frequent scheduled and unscheduled presence and walkthroughs;
- installation of surveillance and security infrastructure including vestibules, cameras, and swipe card building access readers; and
- development of Emergency Procedures Guidelines, Crisis Management and Traumatic Event Plans and procedures.

We continuously reflect upon and improve our procedures, and will certainly do so again in light of the events of last week, as we continue to balance limited access to our buildings with community needs.

Security is only one part of the challenge facing us. Another is to raise our children to be resilient in our modern world, and to support their emotional development. One of our district goals this year has been the integration of Social Emotional Learning Competencies into our curriculum, instruction, and day to day activities. Hopefully some of these activities are evident in your children's days at school, and we will hear more about them over the course of the year as we review progress towards those goals.

Our principals, teachers, school counselors and child study teams are, as always, available if there are specific concerns about your child. Please do reach out to them as needed.

Sincerely,

Vincent Caputo
Superintendent of Schools

Dan Benderly
President, Board of Education

A Whole Child District