

Egg Harbor Township Schools

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February 26, 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Keeping your children safe while at school is our district's top priority. In light of the tragedy in Parkland, Florida and other senseless acts of violence in public schools nationwide, I am writing to discuss safety and security in our school district.

I am proud to share that we have a school Safety and Security Director in place who has a plethora of knowledge in safety and law enforcement. In just a few weeks' time, Mr. Dave Druding, retired Egg Harbor Township Police Captain, has been busy at work assessing our schools, addressing concerns, and making his presence known to all. He has taken the lead on our already-in-place school based safety plans and drills. Throughout each month, each one of our schools practice a variety of safety drills that include protocol for fire, evacuation, and lock down situations. As you may recall, this past fall we held active shooter drills at all of our schools and with our transportation department in conjunction with the Egg Harbor Township Police Department, Atlantic County SWAT team and the United States Air Marshalls. This was a first-time endeavor for us and proved to be educational and beneficial to all.

Beginning this school year, we stressed the importance of building relationships with one another and have implemented a focus on social emotional learning where teachers are looking deeper into student needs beyond academics. Teachers and staff are learning via trainings, discussions, and research.

While our school entrances have always been locked, we have instituted a stricter visitor vetting process that includes questioning prior to access to the building. This process has room to expand and be altered, however it is more than what was done in the past and provides an assessment for the door greeter. I thank you for your cooperation and understanding of our value for the safety and security of our students and staff.



E. H. T.
Every Hand Together
Every Child Every Day!

Please know we have been continuously assessing the safety and security of our buildings and are working to make improvements as needed. We have received feedback from stakeholders who attended our strategic planning meetings and board meetings, as well as direct communications from parents, teachers and students over the last few days. I welcome this and any feedback as it is valuable to our daily operations and any plans moving forward.

I consider school safety and security everyone's concern-therefore, if you "see something or hear something" abnormal or an unsafe matter or condition, please "say something" and make a report to a teacher, staff member, administrator, or to me. And always call 9-1-1 if an immediate emergency exists. We take pride in our working relationship with the Egg Harbor Township Police Department and appreciate the support and concern they have for our students and staff

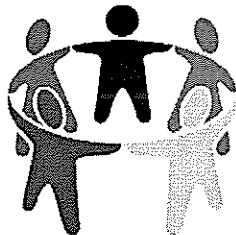
With Every Hand Together – "We" in the Egg Harbor Township School District can create a broad and superior network for the safety and security of our students and staff.

Yours in Education,



Kimberly A. Gruccio Ed.D.
Superintendent

KAG/clp



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