



EATONTOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
5 GRANT AVENUE
EATONTOWN, NJ 07724
TEL. (732) 935-3323
FAX (732) 578-0017



SCOTT T. MCCUE
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

March 29, 2023

Dear Eatontown Public Schools Community Member:

As the Superintendent of Schools, I wanted to remind our school community that Eatontown Public Schools values student and staff safety and works throughout the year to support public safety. As an educator of 25 years as well as a parent of four, I am committed to ensuring that safety and security remain an important goal for our district with the help and support of an amazing team.

Although I cannot share specific elements of our district security plan, I can highlight a few areas of the plan that help our schools maintain security. First, our school counselors work with the students and staff in each school to promote social emotional learning and mental health. Second, our schools work closely with the Eatontown Police Department and Eatontown Office of Emergency Management to review, practice, and enhance our school safety protocols and procedures. This collaboration is enhanced by the presence of trained Class 3 Security Officers in our schools. Third, over the course of the last 12 years, the district has invested in technology to fortify areas of the schools, improve communication among team members when needed, increase visibility, and enhance communication with emergency responders to name a few. The district approaches school security as a mindset, not as a reaction to news events. Having said this, our district is always open to improving drills, protocols, and technology based upon best practices and advice from the experts in the field of school security.

Attached to this letter you will find some correspondences that have been sent to the school community on various school security topics throughout this year. If you have not reviewed them already, please take a moment to read them. Additionally, our district website contains pertinent information and resources related to school violence, which can be found on the Social Emotional Learning page.

If you have any questions regarding school security, please contact your child's school principal. He or she can answer general questions, however, there are limits to what the principal can share due to public safety.

Thank you for your consideration and cooperation. The district does not take school security concerns lightly and like you, is saddened that education is not just about things like reading, writing, and arithmetic any longer.

Sincerely,

Scott T. McCue
Superintendent of Schools

STM:jlq



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February 21, 2023

Dear Eatontown Public Schools Community Member:

As we approach the mid-year point in the 2022-2023 school year, I wanted to provide some important updates regarding student safety and wellness. Although providing a first-rate education to all students is our mission, ensuring students feel safe at school and learn in an environment where they feel they belong are equally valued components of our mission. The question becomes, “How does the district maintain student safety and wellness each day?”

During the pandemic, Eatontown Public Schools realized that more needed to be done in order to nurture student and staff mental health. The demands and expectations of today’s educational system are high. Achieving a balance between academic success as well as social and emotional health is our charge each day. Over the last few years, the district has worked hard to implement approaches and programs to achieve this aim.

Using federal funding, the district hired two additional school counselors in order for each school to have its own mental health resource. Our school counselors work with our students and staff each day to provide group counseling, individual counseling, and social emotional lessons to our students. When students are having a challenging day, our school counselors are there to support.

From a curriculum standpoint, the district has implemented the [Leader in Me](#) program as well as uses [CASEL](#) resources to provide information and training on social and emotional learning. You can learn more about these approaches by visiting our website at www.eatontown.org and clicking on the [Social and Emotional Learning](#) tab. By visiting this tab, you can learn about all the resources available to the school community, including YMCA Counseling services, VNA Health Group services, as well as links to each school counselor’s Google Classroom page.

This district also has a procedure for handling student discipline as well as Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB) concerns. Student discipline is managed through the Student Code of Conduct and HIB is handled through our policies and regulations. Our district [policies and regulations](#) are available for review by visiting our website. In addition, our HIB procedures and contact information are located on the [Anti-Bullying Information](#) tab. If your child is being harassed, intimidated, or bullied, please encourage your child or yourself to contact the school counselor or school principal immediately. Each year our staff is trained in these important protocols.

Last, but certainly not least, student health is important to us. Before students can play a sport, a physical must be conducted by a physician and the physical form is reviewed by our school nurses and school physician. In addition, every two years school personnel including our coaches are trained in CPR as well as how to use an AED device. Each school is equipped with an AED device. Our staff and coaches are trained in concussion protocols as well. Both of these topics have been in the news lately. It is important that you know that our schools are trained in these areas. If you have any medical concerns regarding your child, please contact our school nurses – they are wonderful resources!

As Superintendent, but also as a parent, I understand the concerns and worries you may have from time to time. Ensuring students learn and grow in a safe and secure environment will continue to be our primary goal. If you have questions, please contact your school principal. As educational leaders, they will answer your questions or direct you to where you may gain answers to your questions. Effective communication is important between our school and parent communities.

Thank you for trusting us with your child each day. Our entire team takes this awesome responsibility seriously. It is paramount in order to effectively educate students on a daily basis. Your partnership is extremely helpful and valued in this process.

Sincerely,



Scott T. McCue
Superintendent of Schools

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SCOTT T. MCCUE
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

October 26, 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The purpose of this communication is to maintain open lines of communication regarding issues of school security. Past incidents of school violence across the nation serve as an unfortunate but important reminder that all schools should remain vigilant about reporting suspicious activity to their municipal police department. Local authorities will then immediately notify the County Prosecutor's Office and the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness (NJOHSP), which will immediately share such reports with the FBI.

This statewide information-sharing process known as SARs (Suspicious Activity Reporting) has been mandated by a New Jersey Attorney General Directive, which states that all Chief Law Enforcement Executives shall report suspicious activities to better reflect the current threat landscape, including threats of violence to schools or other criminal activity related to terrorism. An in-depth analysis on the changing trends in threats and tactics affecting New Jersey schools revealed that *social media remains a pervasive method* used by some juveniles and students to convey school threats.

Any threats of violence should be immediately reported, will be taken seriously, and addressed appropriately. Parents/guardians should be aware of the rise in school-related threats nationwide, and both parents/guardians and students must accept that school threats – whether communicated through social media posts, “jokes,” or drawings – will not be tolerated. Consequences of these actions may include measures such as:

- 1. Suspension from school and all school-related activities**
- 2. Notification of the allegation to the local police department**
- 3. A search of the student's residence**
- 4. Criminal charges**

As a reminder, suspicious activity, specifically threats of violence to schools or other criminal activity related to terrorism, should be reported immediately, per existing protocols. Activity can also be reported 24/7 to NJOHSP's CTWatch at **866-4SAFENJ** (866-472-3365) or tips@njohsp.gov.

Sincerely,

Scott T. McCue
Superintendent of Schools

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SCOTT T. McCUE
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

October 4, 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The purpose of this communication is to inform you that the Class 3 Officer Program will continue this school year. Eatontown Public Schools is thankful for the strong partnership that exists between the Eatontown Police Department and Eatontown Borough that enabled this additional layer of security to be provided for our schools. In addition, the Eatontown Board of Education and Eatontown Borough Mayor and Council played a crucial role in making this program a reality. Special thanks to Chief Lucia who helped develop this program for our schools and serves as the direct supervisor of the Class 3 Officers.

As a quick but important reminder, the sole responsibility of the Class 3 Officer Program is to provide greater occupant safety and building security for the schools. In simple terms, the Class 3 Officers provide a trained, experienced law enforcement presence in the schools to protect from significant outside threats. Class 3 Officers work in conjunction with the police department and schools in order to respond swiftly and cooperatively when there are substantial disruptions or criminal offenses occurring at the schools.

Class 3 Officers are retired law enforcement officers who are hired and trained by the local police department. The Class 3 Officers are an armed presence in the schools who will wear a uniform indicating he or she is a member of the Eatontown Police Department. The value of having these individuals in the schools is that they are experienced, trained law enforcement officials who work in concert with the local police department and the schools. This year we are happy to have Officer Hicks and Officer Guido as our Class 3 Officers.

It is worth noting that Class 3 Officers are not meant to become involved in the daily business and management of the schools. Administrators, teachers, and support staff continue to be responsible for handling the daily operations of the schools and classrooms including routine disciplinary matters. The Class 3 Officer's role is to provide an additional layer of school security. The Class 3 Officer Program requires careful vetting of candidates, clearly articulated roles and responsibilities, routine and appropriate training, and high levels of communication between the schools and police department.

Over the years, Eatontown Public Schools and the Eatontown Police Department have enjoyed a very collaborative and cooperative relationship. Both organizations understand the value of keeping students and staff safe within a supportive social and emotional learning environment. The Eatontown Police Department is an appreciated presence in our schools and has been instrumental in many successful school programs such as L.E.A.D and the Cops vs. Kids Basketball and Soccer games. The goal is to extend this relationship in order to protect students and staff in the future.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Be well.

Sincerely,

Scott T. McCue

Superintendent of Schools

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September 21, 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As the district approaches the middle of September, school routines and procedures are now taking shape. As part of our district goal to ensure the safety and security of all school community members, our school system practices various emergency drills in order to help protect students and staff in the event of a crisis. Practicing emergency drills regularly and routinely in conjunction with the Eatontown Police Department, First Aid, Fire Department and Office of Emergency Management, helps our schools maintain appropriate and effective safety and security guidelines as well as procedures.

During the school year, the schools will be practicing various types of drills as per state mandates and recommendations. These drills are unannounced. The purpose of this notification is to remind parents and guardians that these drills will be ongoing from time to time throughout the year. Consequently, if you happen to see students waiting outside the school or moving away from the school, it does not mean a crisis or emergency is occurring. In the event of an actual crisis or emergency, the school district would contact you at the appropriate time via our Swift 911 System, email, text message, etc.

Thank you for your cooperation. We appreciate your help and understanding in helping to keep Eatontown Public Schools safe.

Sincerely,

Scott T. McCue
Superintendent of Schools

STM:jlq