

Manasquan Public Schools

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Dear Parents & Guardians:

We are all saddened by the tragic events that occurred at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School on February 14th in Parkland, Florida. My thoughts and prayers have been with those families struck by this tragedy since last Wednesday. Tragic events like this cause us to stop and think about our own children and their surroundings. The questions one naturally asks is: How can something like this happen after so many other tragedies of this nature have occurred and what are we doing as a school system to keep our children safe and out of harm's way?

As a parent, we expect you to be concerned about the safety and security of your children when they leave your care and enter ours every school day. Please be assured that our top priority as school officials is to ensure the safety and security of your children, our students. To address some questions we have received in recent days, the District follows the following security protocols as part of our daily operation:

- The Manasquan Police Department conducts regular walk-throughs of our buildings and has 24/7 access to our video surveillance system.
- The addition of secure entry vestibules last year has better controlled visitor access to our buildings. Entrances are staffed with security personnel in addition to two other retired police security officers who patrol our campus and buildings during the school day.
- All outside entry points and doors to our buildings are always secured and locked during the school day.
- All classrooms are equipped with a phone capable of emergency communication to both the building offices and 911.
- Safety drills are regularly practiced with both students and staff.

After a tragedy like this one in Florida, I immediately reflected on the safety precautions and procedures that we have in place here in the Manasquan School District and what we could do differently or better regarding safety. I then reached out to Manasquan's Chief of Police, Chief Bauer, and the district's School Security Coordinator, Mr. Clayton, to set up a meeting with them and my administrative team. We met yesterday, Wednesday February 20th, to discuss safety and security in the District. The meeting was extremely productive. Chief Bauer attended the meeting with Captain Kleinknecht, Patrol Officer Hamill, and my entire administrative team. We reviewed our current infrastructure and discussed how it could be improved.

Safety and security is an ongoing focus that is the responsibility of our entire school community. I am grateful for the professionalism of our district staff and likewise feel very fortunate for our seamless and cooperative relationship with our local police department. This incident serves as a sobering reminder that our collective vigilance and open communications are essential to keeping our children safe.

Yours in education,



Frank Kasyan, Ed.D.