



# School Safety Parent Meeting

Fall Follow-up  
Review and Update  
October 11, 2018

Haddon Township School District

# Comprehensive Approach to School Safety

- Referendum Project Security Upgrades
- School Security Plans & Personnel
- Focus on Connecting Students to School
- Community Support

# Recent Referendum Project Security Upgrades

## Elementary:

- New Interior and Exterior Security Cameras
- Upgrade to PA System Inside & Outside
- New Intruder Locks
- Main Office Renovations/Security Entrances (Stoy, Strawbridge, and Van Sciver)

# Referendum Project Security Upgrades

## High School:

- Exterior Doors
- Secure Vestibule
- Interior Doors with Intruder Locks
- New, Increased Number of Security Cameras
- Corridor Speakers
- New Fire Alarm System

# Key District Safety Personnel

- District Safety Team
- School Safety Specialist
- Administrative Team
- Staff Members

# School Security Measures

## School Security Plans:

- District Plans
- School Site Plans
- Transportation Plans

# School Security Measures

## Safety Drills:

- Four Types of Drills
- Practice, Re-Evaluate, Modify

## Threat Assessment Procedures

## Transition Plans

# School Security Measures

## Haddon Township Police Department:

- Roundtable meetings with administrative staff
- Security meetings with School Safety Specialist
- Participate in student drills
- Complete on-site practice drills w/out students



# School Safety Measures

- Classroom numbering system and modifications to buildings due to the referendum have been received and reviewed
- Familiarize new officers with building tours and training
- Emergency response buttons in multiple locations
- Building has been used by the Camden County Sheriff's Department for active shooter drills and K-9 units

# Recent School Safety Updates

- Third party review of District safety measures
- School security training
- Review of parent feedback from previous school safety meeting

# 3rd Party Review

- NJ Department of Education School Preparedness and Emergency Planning Special Investigator
  - Conducted walk throughs with district safety team
  - Assessed outside parking lots, signs, entrances
  - Evaluated inside school buildings
    - Entrances
    - Signage
    - Identified challenging spaces
    - Site-based best practices

# School Security Training

District School Safety Specialist - Dr. Patty Schwab

- Completed extensive training leading to school safety certification
  - School security drills
  - Emergency operations planning
  - Threat assessment
  - Internet safety
  - Local active shooter simulation
  - Updated processes and procedures

# Summary of Parent Feedback

- Areas revisited based on parent feedback
  - Security of exterior and interior doors
  - Screening process for school visitors
  - Accessibility of teacher keys
  - School office parent contact for student absences
  - Security training for substitutes
  - Procedures for SACC, RMS morning music, Elem. after-school music, playgrounds
  - Testing of panic button alert system in school buildings

# Connecting Students to School

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2009):

School connectedness was found to be the strongest protective factor for both boys and girls to decrease substance use, school absenteeism, violence, and unintentional injury (e.g., drinking and driving, not wearing seat belts, etc.).\*

\* Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *School Connectedness: Strategies for Increasing Protective Factors Among Youth*. Atlanta, GA: US Department of Health and Human Services; 2009

# Connecting Students to School

Factors that can increase school connectedness:

- Adult Support
  - Dedicate time, interest, emotional support
- Belonging to a Positive Peer Group
  - Stable network of peers, more positive perceptions of school
- Commitment to Education
  - Perceiving adults are invested in students' education
- School Environment/Climate of the School
  - Physical and psychosocial factors

# Connecting Students to School: Elementary

Garden Clubs

Teachers as Lunchroom Supervisors

Fitness Clubs

Jump Rope for Heart

Student Ambassadors

Student Digital Portfolios

Student Councils

Performing Arts

Spirit Days

Celebration of the Arts Nights

Read Across America

Character Education (Whole School and Classroom-Based)

Barnes & Noble Nights

L.E.A.D. (formerly D.A.R.E.)



# Connecting Students to School: Middle School

Community Gathering

Advisory Program

Teams & Team Building

Student Council

Student Ambassadors

Student Mentors

Week of Respect

Transition Meetings

Mixed-up Lunches

Community Service Projects

Rohrer Day & Spirit Week

Clubs

One Book, One School

Minute Meetings

# Connecting Students to School: High School

- Positive school climate designed to engage students in our thriving school community (academics, performing arts, athletics, & student activities)
- Numerous sports, clubs and student activities for students to enjoy (from Academic Challenge and Basketball Club to Mock Trial and Interact Club)
- Mr. Bill, our student liaison/in school suspension supervisor/security monitor/advisor (Green Thumbs and Bowling Club)
- Guidance counselors, school psychologist, social worker, administrators, and multiple other adults easily accessible to students

# Connecting Students to School: High School

- Conduct school wide activities to promote our positive school climate
  - Week of Respect activities (Public and Permanent, mindfulness, Rachel's Challenge, Red Out Rally, ScreenAgers, Club Fair)
  - Mental/emotional/physical health day
  - Kindness Week
  - Courage Day
  - Holocaust Remembrance Day

# Connecting Students to School: High School

## Student Assistance Counselor

- Core Team
- Memorial Garden
- High school girls leadership group
- Appropriate services (anger management, bereavement, substance abuse, anxiety, mental/emotional assistance)
- Senior to freshmen student ambassadors, peer mediation, & lunch buddies.

# Community Involvement

Please speak with your children:

- Importance of drills
- Never open a school door for someone
- Never prop open a school door
- Speak up when concerned that “something doesn’t seem right/feel right”
- Concerns about school safety

# Community Involvement

Please contact school personnel if:

- You have concerns regarding a student who may be at risk
- You become aware of an inappropriate or threatening social media post
- You notice an exterior door that is propped open or someone who is opening an exterior door to let others enter

# Community Involvement

Please contact school personnel if:

- You become aware of rumors related to school safety that are upsetting to students
- Your child is experiencing high levels of anxiety regarding school safety

# How can YOU help?

- Monitor your child's social media
- Be sure to communicate your child's absence in a timely fashion
- When entering schools, please be patient if you are asked for more information (identification, purpose for visit, etc.)
- If someone other than you is picking up your child, please inform the school asap
- Be mindful of all traffic signs and rules regarding pick up/drop off
- Let us know if there is a major change in your child's life



# Additional Parent Feedback and Questions

