MANHASSET
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

August 18, 2023

Dear Manhasset School Community,

I am writing to inform you of a distressing incident that occurred at the Secondary School. On Wednesday night, August 16, an unidentified individual drove a motor vehicle onto the newly constructed Stadium Field and on the recently renovated Northwest Field.

A review of the District's security camera footage revealed that between 9 p.m. and 10:30 p.m., a group of young men entered the campus in two motor vehicles. After playing on the softball field for a time, the driver of one of the vehicles, a black Jeep SUV, drove onto the Stadium Field, around the track, and onto the Northwest Field. The driver recklessly operated his vehicle, causing damage to both fields and posed a serious risk of personal injury to himself, the passengers in the car, and the remaining individuals who were watching and apparently making a video recording of the incident.

We are deeply disheartened by this intentional act of vandalism as it not only jeopardized the safety of those involved but also undermined the significant investment made by our community to improve our facilities. Our contractor, Landtek, has been out to survey the damage and will be completing the necessary repairs in the next few days to restore the fields to their intended condition.

The reconstruction of the Stadium Field totaling $1,018,750, was recently approved by voters as part of a Long-Term Facilities Bond Referendum in December 2022. This project included the replacement of the turf, structural spray and striping on the track, and was in its final phase of completion in preparation for the beginning of the athletic season. The Northwest Field renovation totaling $590,000, which included the replacement of the Northwest Field turf, was recently completed in the summer of 2022.

We have reported the incident to the police and provided them with the appropriate video footage. We are working closely with them to identify the individuals responsible. In addition, we have enhanced our after-hours security measures. If you are aware of any information that may be of assistance in the investigation of this incident, please contact my office or the Sixth Precinct.

Within our closely connected school community, I know we all take immense pride in our school facilities. We thank you for your partnership in our commitment to fostering a safe learning environment for our students.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gaurav Passi
Superintendent of Schools