

October 23, 2021

Dear Manhasset School Community,

Over the past several weeks, we have been communicating with you regarding the disruption of the District's computer network which resulted from the acts of criminals who encrypted the District's computer systems with ransomware. We were alerted on October 17 that the criminals posted the files stolen from the District to what is referred to as the "dark web." We continue to work closely and cooperate with law enforcement agencies, including Federal, State, and Nassau County Homeland Security Departments and the FBI's investigations of this incident.

The intrusion into our network was deep, the files stolen were voluminous, and some files contain sensitive information regarding certain students or staff. We share your outrage about this invasion of privacy.

Recently, we received troubling information that some Manhasset students were in possession of and were circulating a stolen confidential memorandum that the criminals posted to the dark web. As its name implies, the dark web is a portion of the Internet that is not accessible to everyday computer users as it cannot be searched with Google or other regular search engines. Accessing the dark web requires use of a special browser that must be downloaded to your computer or phone. The dark web may be used for illegal activity because a user's dark web internet activity remains anonymous.

We have alerted Homeland Security and law enforcement authorities of the circulation of the stolen file. Please note, possessing and circulating stolen files is a serious violation of the Manhasset Public School's Code of Conduct and may result in disciplinary action.

We ask that you speak with your children about the negative impact and unintended consequences of accessing and circulating stolen sensitive information. Obtaining stolen sensitive information from the dark web and spreading it through the community compounds the harm done to the members of the community by the criminals who perpetrated this crime.

Thank you in advance for engaging your children in this important conversation.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gaurav Passi
Acting Superintendent of Schools