



education... the adventure of a lifetime

SEAFORD UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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February 28, 2018

DR. ADELE V. PECORA
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The senseless tragedy that occurred in Parkland, Florida has brought to the forefront questions regarding security in our schools. I want to update you on some of the security measures that we currently have in place and some of the enhancements that will be put in place going forward.

Administration and the Board of Education have always focused on the safety and welfare of our students and staff. For years, we have maintained a district-wide safety committee chaired by our Director of Facilities and comprised of faculty, administrators and Board of Education members. Each building also has a safety committee that meets regularly. The building level and district-wide safety plans are reviewed annually by these committees. As part of the District's continuous commitment to security, funds are budgeted annually for enhancements. For example, this year we will expand to a total of 128 video cameras in our buildings.

In all of our schools, we have security guards in place throughout the day. Beginning in 1998, the District required all guards hired to have law enforcement experience. Currently, our Director of Security and all of the guards with the exception of one person, had prior careers in law enforcement. Regularly, we conduct lockdown and emergency drills that are monitored by our Director of Security and a Health and Safety liaison from Nassau BOCES.

Throughout the school day, all doors are locked. A security guard monitors one entrance accessible for visitors. Upon entering a school, visitors are asked to produce driver license identification and state the purpose of their visit. Starting March 5th, the license will be collected by the security guard when the visitor pass is issued. The license will then be returned when the visitor gives the pass back to the guard. In addition, all employees have been required to wear their school district identification badges.

Over the next few weeks we will be issuing middle and high students lanyards for the purpose of displaying their student identification cards. The expectation is that students will be wearing these lanyards throughout the day.

Lastly, in order to ensure that our schools are as safe as possible, a security consulting firm has been hired to conduct a school safety and security audit. This company will review our safety and emergency plans, the training of our personnel and the use of resources and make any necessary recommendations for enhancing the security of our District. Additional changes and expenditures to our security plan will be based upon these suggestions.

As stated in my last correspondence, our school psychologists and social workers are available to assist with the needs of our students. I am confident that the Seaford School District will continue to provide a safe and secure environment for all students.

Yours in Seaford Pride,

Adele V. Pecora, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

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