

District Safety Committee Meeting

Clarkstown Central School District
October 17, 2024



AGENDA

Overview of District Safety Program

Updates

- Camera and Card Access Updates
- Bus Camera Update
- FFMS Floor Tile Replacement
- D.A.R.E. Evolution

Social Media and School Threats - Current Climate

- Social Media Practices for Parents
- Decisions about Communications

In the News

- Gov. Hochul Cell Phone Ban Listening Tour

Overview of District Safety Program

District and Building Safety Commitment

- District and Building Safety and Emergency Plans and Teams
- 55 CCSD Security Personnel (majority from law enforcement)
- Six School Resource Officers from Clarkstown Police Dept. (CPD)
- Omnipresence Policing in partnership with CPD
- Newly updated security surveillance cameras in schools and buses
- Police-grade walkie talkies throughout the school buildings
- Employee Emergency Alert System (Share911)
- Single Point of Entry
 - Employee ID Entry System
 - Raptor Visitor Management System
- Online Software
 - Anonymous Alert Reporting System
 - Go Guardian Computer Use Monitoring
- Ongoing CPD building audit process and District facilities and safety inspections.
- Internal door locks in each classroom



District and Building Safety Commitment

School Safety Drills

- Each schools completes a minimum of 12 safety drills
 - (4) Four lockdown drills
 - (8) Eight evacuation drills to include:
 - (3) Blocked or secondary exit drills
 - (4) Primary exit drills
 - (1) Off-site evacuation location drill

Mandatory Staff Safety Training

- 12 courses required minimum

**Student
and Staff
Drills and
Safety
Training**



- Camera and Card Access Updates
- Bus Camera Update
- FFMS Floor Tile Replacement
- D.A.R.E. Evolution

Updates

Dr. Marc Baiocco

Chief Jeff Wanamaker

Anthony Valenti

Social Media and School Threats - NY Times Report Reflects our Reality

As School Threats Proliferate, More Than 700 Students Are Arrested

<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/09/25/us/school-violence-threats-student-arrests.html>

Social Media and School Threats

- The Current Climate

For the period September 4 – September 25, 2024:

- More than 700 children and teenagers have been arrested and accused of making violent threats against schools in at least 45 states, Almost 10 percent were 12 or younger.
- Two teachers and two students were killed at Apalachee High School in the deadliest school shooting in Georgia's history. Following, 98 students in 56 counties in Georgia were taken into custody for making threats
- Arizona schools received 156 percent more threats than in the same week last year. (130)
- A county in the Orlando, Fla., suburbs charged 24 students in the first 28 days of school with second-degree felonies for making threats.
- Shavon Harvey said her son had told his fifth-grade friends on Snapchat that there would be a shooting in his district. The police held him in custody for over a week.
- A 15-year-old with autism near Orlando was accused of saying while playing the popular video game Fortnite that he would find explosives and blow up a high school.
- An 11-year-old in southwest Arizona commented on TikTok that a gunman was coming to his elementary school, according to the police.
- A high school student in southeast Wisconsin was charged after posting on Snapchat that if Vice President Kamala Harris won the national election, he would shoot up his high school.

Social Media and School Threats - Growing Numbers

Impact

Five years ago, we averaged **29 school threats** per month. Last year, we averaged **785** per month, said Don Beeler of TDR Technology Solutions, a software company that tracks threats using data from schools, the police and news accounts.

On the Monday after the Georgia shooting, he said, **500 schools were under threat.**

Over a dozen prosecutors, school safety consultants and district superintendents said in interviews with the New York Times published September 25th that they were working overtime to investigate **social media posts that seem to leap across platforms**, broadcasting images of guns, lists of schools and menacing warnings to stay home.

“The number of **recirculated, reshared, reposted threats** we’re seeing is a number that we’ve never seen before.”

Social Media and School Threats

- Online Threats Predominate

As is typical in the overwhelming majority of school threat cases — the warnings were not credible and the vast majority have proved to be unfounded.

Incidents of gunfire on school grounds from Sept. 4 to Sept. 20 remained below the average of recent years, according to Everytown for Gun Safety, a gun control group.

Several experts said that both students and parents were making the problem worse by reposting threats, often in an attempt to warn others, instead of just reporting them to the authorities.

Reposting can make threats that originated from other states or even other countries appear to be local.

Social Media and School Threats

- Response by Schools and Police

Schools must respond to every threat of violence.

The police must fully investigate every threat, and the surging numbers have frustrated and exhausted law enforcement agencies.

The rise in the number of threats has raised difficult questions about how the police should respond.

Forensic psychologists say that schools and law enforcement officials should consider several factors, including **a student's age, the nature of a threat and the intent behind it.**

Students might make threats as a “joke,” to win attention from their peers or to intimidate classmates and cause disruption. In a small number of cases, a threat could be a harbinger of a serious intent to commit violence.

Still, even **threats meant as a joke can produce real harm.**

Social Media and School Threats

- Why the Increase in Threats?

Why the Increase in Threats?

Contributing Factors:

- The proliferation of social media in the lives of students
- Pervasiveness of high-profile violence — from school shootings to political assassination attempts
- “Aftereffects” of the pandemic, with more students having trouble regulating their emotions and higher rates of issues like depression and mental distress
- More teenagers who desensitized to violence after seeing so much online and in the media
- Young people who have not grasped, even in a heavily online culture, that comments on the internet can carry acute consequences

“Behavior is a way of communicating” — and that it is the job of adults to figure out what students are trying to say.” Dr. Alyse Ley, Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist, MSU

**Detective
Norm Peters**

Public Information Officer



Clarkstown Police Department
Press Release

Social Media Best Practices for Parents

Dr. Marc Baiocco

Decisions about Communications

News We are Following....

Gov. Hochul Cell Phone Ban Listening Tour

Cell Phone Ban Proposal Targeted for NYS's Next Legislative Session beginning January 2025

Gov. Kathy Hochul kicked off a “listening tour” on July 14, 2024 on how to combat harmful smartphone use in schools as she mulls a statewide ban on smartphones in schools. Hochul said leaving it up to each school district to decide whether to ban phones won't work.

Governor Passed New Laws To Combat Addictive Social Media

SAFE for Kids Act requires social media companies to restrict addictive feeds on their platforms for users under 18. Unless parental consent is granted, users under 18 will not receive addictive feeds. Notably, the SAFE For Kids Act was the first law of its kind to be signed in any state across the nation.

New York Child Data Protection Act prohibits online sites and connected devices from collecting, using, sharing or selling personal data of anyone under the age of 18, unless they receive informed consent or unless doing so is strictly necessary for the purpose of the website.

Thank you....

Next meeting March 2025

**Clarkstown Central School District
October 17, 2024**

