



Manville School District

Donald Johnstone • School Safety and Security • 908.231.8500 x8096
1100 Brooks Blvd., Manville, NJ 08835 • www.manvilleschools.org

Commitment to Safety and Security for the 2025-2026 School Year

Dear Manville School Community,

Welcome back! We hope everyone had a wonderful summer and is ready for a successful new school year. Ensuring the security and safety of our students and staff remains our highest priority within the Manville School District. We are writing to provide an update on the significant enhancements we have implemented and continued initiatives to maintain a secure learning environment for all.

Enhanced Security Infrastructure

We are excited to announce major upgrades to our district's security infrastructure. During the 2024-2025 school year, the district was awarded \$500,000 from the United States Department of Justice School Violence Prevention Program (COPS GRANT). This grant has been specifically allocated to modernize our key access control system across all district facilities.

Progress to date includes:

- Upgrading exterior access points and intercom systems with state-of-the-art technology, a project initiated during the summer break.
- Upcoming installations of new doors and key card access locks for all classroom and instructional spaces later this year.

Furthermore, as a result of the 2025 referendum, construction has begun on man-trap security vestibules in each of our school buildings. These vestibules will enable us to more effectively control access, minimize unnecessary foot traffic within our schools, and enhance the safety of our students and staff.

Comprehensive Training and Dedicated Security Team

Our commitment to safety extends to rigorous training and a highly experienced security team. This summer, we conducted comprehensive security training for our administrative team and provided safety and security training for all new district employees.

Our dedicated school security team includes:

- Mr. Don Johnstone: District Security Coordinator/MHS Security
- Mr. Tim Charous: Security Monitor at Weston School
- Mr. Paco Ayala: Security Monitor at Roosevelt School
- Mr. Rider Torres: Security Monitor at ABIS

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Each of our security team members brings over 30 years of law enforcement and security experience to the district.

Streamlined Entrance and Visitor Management

To further enhance security, our Visitor Management System allows us to thoroughly screen all outside visitors requiring access to our schools. This system:

- Screens visitors against sex offender registries.
- It can be utilized to manage custody and court orders.
- Generates visitor badges with photos for accurate accountability of all individuals entering and exiting our schools.

This modern program allows us to efficiently screen and record all school visitors. Please note that visitors requiring entry to our schools will need an appointment, which should be made in advance. Access without an appointment will be at the discretion of the building administration.

Strong Partnership with the Manville Police Department

Our strong community partnership with the Manville Police Department is a cornerstone of the safety and security we strive to provide for our children and staff. This collaboration includes:

- All Manville Police Officers are issued keys and cards for full access to all district buildings and rooms.
- Increased police presence in our buildings, including marked police vehicles parked outside, community policing walk-throughs by MPD officers, and security presence at athletic and larger school events.
- Manville Police conducts classroom DARE instruction at ABIS and "Not Even Once" drug abuse training at MHS throughout the school year.
- Regular collaboration to fulfill the "Handle with Care" law and to conduct safety and security drills.
- Ongoing meetings and discussions to improve the school safety climate and optimize traffic flow during student arrival and dismissal.

Together, the MSD Security team and the Manville Police Department work cooperatively to ensure the safest and most secure environment possible for our students and staff. Additionally, we have installed emergency response lockers in our school buildings, providing first responders with critical, ready-to-use, lifesaving equipment for our first responders.

Behavioral Threat Assessment and Reporting System

The Manville School District (MSD) has established behavioral threat assessment teams to assist school teachers, administrators, and staff in identifying students with concerning behaviors. These teams assess students' risk for engaging in violence or other harmful activities and implement

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intervention strategies to manage potential risks. This behavior-based approach allows us to identify and assess individuals who demonstrate concerning communications or behavior.

To report a behavioral threat assessment, please use the following link:

<https://reporting.hibster.com/Pages/StartThreatAssessment.aspx?id=368>

Emergency Preparedness and Communication

We are diligent in our emergency preparedness efforts:

- **Emergency Drills:** In compliance with New Jersey State Law, each school principal will conduct at least one fire drill and one security drill per month during school hours, including any summer months when the school is open for instructional programs. Parents and guardians will be electronically notified upon the completion of safety and security drills by the end of the school day.
- **District Emergency Management Plan:** Our District has adopted the "I Love U Guys" Foundation's Standard Response Protocol (SRP). Students and staff will train, practice, and drill this protocol at least once every month we are in school. Further information on the SRP can be found at <https://iloveguys.org/The-Standard-Response-Protocol.html>.
- **Emergency Notification Procedures:** Our emergency notification protocols are robust and adhere to all NJDOE guidelines. We will conduct tests of our email, text, and phone notifications within the first 15 days of the new school year.

In closing, we continually practice and drill school safety and security procedures to provide the safest and most secure environment possible for our children and community. By continuing to prioritize vigilance and positive behavioral changes, we can collectively make our schools safer and more secure for everyone.

Respectfully,

Mr. Don Johnstone

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