

WEST DEPTFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

I wanted to take a moment to address a matter of utmost importance: the safety and security of our students and staff within our school district. As a school district, it is our collective responsibility to ensure that our educational institutions remain safe havens for learning, growth, and exploration. In light of this, I am writing to emphasize the significance of consistent school safety practices and procedures.

One of the cornerstones of our safety protocol is the regular practice of safety drills. These drills are not merely routine exercises; they are vital preparations that equip our students and staff with the skills and knowledge to respond effectively in the event of a true emergency. Whether it's a fire, lockdown, or any other potential threat, practicing these drills throughout the year ensures that everyone knows their role and understands how to act swiftly and decisively. Once any security drill is practiced, you will receive an email from the Principal making you aware of the security drill practiced that day. We do not notify home when the schools complete a fire drill.

Furthermore, I would like to emphasize the importance of adhering to the school's visitor policy. Each school has established comprehensive visitor protocols based on each building and school layout to regulate access to the premises and to safeguard the well-being of our students and staff. It is imperative that we all respect and adhere to these policies. This includes:

- ✓ Visitors Must Enter **ONLY** through the main office doors.
- ✓ Using our new bank teller windows to limit visitors in and out of the offices.
- ✓ If dropping any item (food, clothing, backpack, etc.) to the school, make sure your child's name is written on the item.
- ✓ If you are picking up your child, please expect to either wait either outside or in the school office foyer. **Please do not forget to bring your ID.**

By doing so, we contribute to the overall security in our schools and continue to create an environment where everyone can feel confident in the safety measures in place. Our children's safety should remain a top priority, and by working together, we can ensure that our schools remain secure and nurturing environments for all.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to witnessing the positive impact of our collaborative efforts on the safety of our schools.

Warm regards,

Dr. Gismondi, *Superintendent of West Deptford Schools*