

May 25, 2022

Dear Flemington-Raritan Regional School District Parents, Faculty, Staff, and Community Members,

Like all of you, my heart is breaking because of the horrific news about the school shooting in Texas at Robb Elementary School. The images and news about the shooting naturally bring sadness and despair and possibly a bit of uneasiness about safety in schools.

The District has been proactive in safety preparations to prioritize security in our schools. To help alleviate some of the trepidation you may feel, I want to share with the community again the steps we have put in place to provide safety in our schools.

Significant procedures have been put in place to keep our schools safe. Beginning in 2019, the District hired two Class III Officers. Class III Officers are retired law enforcement officers who previously served as fully-trained, full-time police officers in New Jersey. Over the past two years, the District has added two additional officers to further our partnership with our local police departments to increase our schools' safety and security.

Our four Class III Officers report to our schools each day children are present to provide safety, security, and on-site support to students, faculty and staff members, and visitors. Officer Mike Fitzpatrick, Officer Harry Hultz, Officer Craig Santoro, and Officer Darren Powell work full-time in the district.

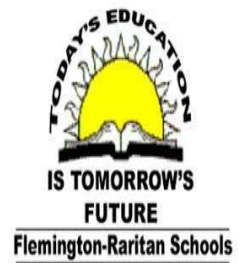


*Our District's Class III officers are pictured above, left to right:  
Officer Santoro, Officer Hultz, Officer Fitzpatrick, and Officer Powell.*

In 2019, the District purchased system software for building mapping developed by Critical Response Group. This emergency tool is used for emergency personnel when responding to an emergency.

In 2021, the District completed the installation of a state-of-the-art security communication system. As part of the 2019 referendum, the District purchased an upgraded emergency notification system that ensures that first responders receive the information they need to address any safety situations. Our schools' safety measures were

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improved with a lockdown and emergency notification system which allows us to immediately alert everyone on school grounds of a lockdown, active threat, or other emergency events.

Throughout the District, there are additional security features as a result of the installed security system, including but not limited to security cameras, sirens, strobe lights, and more.

Most recently, the Board of Education approved the purchase and installation of security film for school windows. Films make glass harder to penetrate and keep shattered pieces in place, helping to keep both people and property safe from dangers.

As always, we review our security plans, as well as remind our personnel to report suspicious activity to the proper authorities. We are in constant communication with our law enforcement partners including Chiefs of Police, Class III Officers, District Safety Personnel, and others regarding school safety. The Flemington Borough Police Department and Raritan Police Department continue to be partners in safety and security and will have an elevated presence around campuses.

The District continues to take strategic steps to ensure our schools remain safe places for students to learn. In addition to all of the security features listed above the District has increased the number of guidance counselors in our schools to be proactive to the feelings and emotional/mental health of our students. We hired an additional guidance counselor last year and we plan to hire another guidance counselor for the 2022-2023 school year.

The Flemington Raritan Regional School District continues to prioritize the safety and security of students, staff, faculty, and visitors in our buildings. The NJ ROIS requests our community to report suspicious activity to 1-866-4-SAFE-NJ (1-866-472-3365) and in an emergency call 9-1-1.

Our thoughts and support go out to all of those who were affected by this terrible tragedy in Texas. The American School Counselor Association provides resources after school shootings that are beneficial to families. You can find that link [here](#). The Association offers the following tips:

1. Try and keep routines as normal as possible. Kids gain security from the predictability of routine, including attending school.
2. Limit exposure to television and the news.
3. Be honest with kids and share with them as much information as they are developmentally able to handle.
4. Listen to kids' fears and concerns.
5. Reassure kids that the world is a good place to be, but that there are people who do bad things.
6. Parents and adults need to first deal with and assess their own responses to crisis and stress.
7. Rebuild and reaffirm attachments and relationships.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kari McGann  
Superintendent of Schools