

Flemington-Raritan Regional School District
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December 2, 2021

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

The recent Michigan school shooting weighs heavily on my heart and in my mind. As families grieve the profound loss of their children and the impact of violence in their school and community, school districts across the country continue to face the ever-present challenge of simultaneously preventing, preparing for, or responding to a potential threat of school violence.

Here in the Flemington-Raritan Regional School District, school safety and security are paramount. The District has four Class III officers employed in our District. Class III Officers are retired law enforcement officers who previously served as fully-trained, full-time police officers in New Jersey. Our 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.

Serving Raritan Township, Officer Mike Fitzpatrick and Officer Harry Hults, began here in Flemington-Raritan in October 2019. You can find my request to Raritan Township to secure Class III Officers in 2019 in [an article linked here](#) as well as my letter to parents announcing their appointments [linked here](#). Serving Flemington Borough, Officer Craig Santoro began serving in the district in November 2019. You can read more about my request to Flemington Borough at that time in [an article linked here](#).

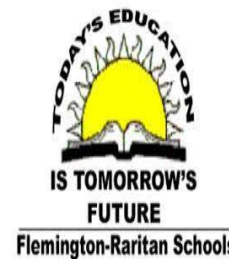
Furthering our commitment to safety, just this school year, the District welcomed our fourth Class III Officer, Raritan Township, Class III Officer Darren Powell. You can read my previous announcement about the addition of Officer Powell in my September newsletter [linked here](#).



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

Parents in our District may have noticed the presence of other members of the Raritan Township or Flemington Borough Police Department occasionally stationed on campus, specifically at night. The District requests their presence particularly during evening events where larger crowds may be in attendance. The District requests these

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officers apart from our Class III Officers due to the limited number of hours that retired police department officers can serve.

To enhance safety and security measures, the District also has appointed a district safety specialist, Mr. Peter Sibilia, Vice Principal at J.P. Case Middle School. Mr. Sibilia has been serving in this role for the past five years. He has attended specialized training to hold the title of District Safety Specialist. Mr. Sibilia serves as chairperson of the District Security Committee and assists the Superintendent in decision making on safety and security in the District. Additionally, Mr. Todd Amiet, Director of Educational Facilities and Operations, works hard to support efforts to ensure buildings and grounds are secure. The team is notified any time there are issues that may be of concern with regard to safety and security.

As part of the 2019 referendum, the District earmarked funds for the installation of an upgraded security system. Through a contract with DataComm, the District installed an upgraded emergency notification system that ensures that first responders receive the information they need to address the situation. Our schools safety measures were 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 event.

To work toward the prevention of school violence, our District focuses on providing support to the overall wellbeing of children. To focus on the whole child, our District has partnered with Effective Schools Solutions (ESS) to support students who are struggling. ESS provides services through licensed clinicians and therapeutic counselors whose expertise is utilized to ensure students identified by school personnel receive counseling support so they are available for learning. Individual, group, and even family counseling sessions support our students identified as in need of intensive social emotional support. You can find a presentation on ESS that I shared with our Board of Education [linked here](#) and an announcement about our partnership with ESS in my September newsletter [linked here](#).

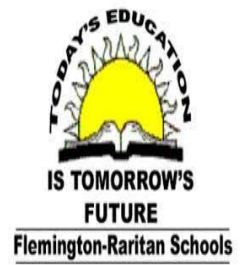
A reminder about visitors:

The District welcomes school visitors under the guidance of District Policy 9150, School Visitors. The policy, [linked here](#), states that "for the educational program to continue undisturbed when visitors are present, and to prevent the intrusion of disruptive persons into the schools, the Board directs the enforcement of rules governing school visits."

All parents and visitors to our Flemington-Raritan Regional School District will notice on all exterior doors of facilities signs directing visitors to report to the main office and not to hold or prop the door open. These signs are posted to remind visitors that procedures must be followed to request access to a building. Please, in the effort of safety and security of students, staff, and faculty, do not hold the door open for others to enter if you have been granted access to the building. It is extremely important that each individual requests access and that access be granted by the main office.

Please be reminded that if there are district-wide safety and security messages such as security drills, power outages, or other crises that require district-wide communication, those messages and alerts will come from the

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Superintendent's office. If you have any concerns or questions about safety and security, please reach out to your building principal.

As I keep the Michigan families in my thoughts, I continue my steadfast commitment to all of our students, staff members and families here in Flemington-Raritan. It continues to be an honor to serve as your Superintendent.

Sincerely,

Kari McGann

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