



March 21, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians:

On Friday, March 18, it was reported to Flemington Police that a man approached students attending the YMCA After-Care Program at Reading-Fleming Intermediate School while they were playing under adult supervision. The YMCA staff called the authorities and brought the children inside. Building administrators were also present and attended to this matter. The man was seen near the school building again this morning; however, the building principal interceded and guided him away from the school. The police are aware of this individual as they advised him officially to stay off of school property or risk arrest. They will provide extra presence in the area. As always, we encourage all students, staff members, parents and families to remain alert, especially during drop off, pick up and dismissal times.

Our staff, faculty and facility users are vigilant and remain committed to ensuring the safety of all students at all times. It is during circumstances such as these when we are most grateful and proud of the partnership we have established with our local police departments and our Class III officers in our schools. We also commend and thank the YMCA staff for their steadfast resolve to keep children safe.

In the interest of child safety, we are providing the information as it was reported to the district as a precaution. Please take a few moments to review the following strategies that may help your child recognize and respond to strangers, suspicious vehicles and other situations:

- Never approach or engage in conversations with strangers.
- Never open a door to a stranger without the permission of a trusted adult.
- When answering the phone, never tell a stranger that your parents/guardians are not home. Tell them that they can not come to the phone right now.
- Never approach or get into anyone's car without parent/guardian's permission.
- Remember strangers are not always suspicious. Always follow the same rules for dealing with strangers regardless of how nice, well-dressed, or respectable they may seem.
- Be alert to strangers who may ask for your help (have you seen my son, have you seen my dog, can you give me directions, etc.). Do not approach them or their cars.
- Do not take short cuts through or play in isolated or wooded areas.
- Always walk/play with your friends, not alone.
- Always let your parents/guardians know where you are.
- No adult should ever ask you to keep a secret that makes you feel uncomfortable. Always tell your parent/guardian.
- When online don't talk to strangers. Never give your full name, address, picture or phone number to someone you do not know.
- If someone makes you uncomfortable, notify your parents/guardians immediately.
- When away from your home without parents/guardians, always know the location of homes or businesses that you can go to in the event that you need help.
- If you feel threatened by a situation, LEAVE.
- If someone follows or touches you, run away and scream.
- If you see a stranger acting suspiciously, always tell a parent/guardian or trusted adult.

By following the simple tips above and remaining vigilant to suspicious behavior, we can work together to ensure the safety of our children and community.

Respectfully,

Dr. Kari McGann
Superintendent of Schools