



Building Bridges for today's students to cross into tomorrow's world with equity, innovation and optimism

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James Montesano, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

February 15, 2018

Dear Parents, Guardians and Staff,

In response to the tragedy that occurred yesterday in Parkland, Florida, my heartfelt thoughts go out to the entire community of Parkland for strength and resilience as they work through the aftermath and begin the healing process. Words simply cannot express my feelings - especially to those who have directly suffered the loss of a loved one. As we learn more about yesterday's incomprehensible events, we can't help the trepidation we feel as we send our children out in to the world each day.

The purpose of this letter is to let you know that we all, at Nyack Public Schools, work diligently everyday to keep our safety protocols in the forefront of our school day. We are committed to being proactive in providing safe and secure schools for the children you entrust to our care each day, as well as to our staff members who report to work each day. Please know that our District and School Building Level Safety Plans are reviewed and updated each year before the opening of school in September and our building administrators practice monthly drills to practice and review our safety protocols frequently. Each school building has an Emergency Response Team that understands their building's safety plans, helps identify potential safety issues and is prepared to act in an emergency situation. The District also continues to make many enhancements to our infrastructure and surveillance equipment, working cooperatively with our local law enforcement and other security experts. In light of the most recent events, we will again be reaching out to local authorities for additional advice and guidance.

As a community we all need to act in partnership to address and prevent threats. Teach your children that "if you see something, say something" and be reminded that anyone may call "911" to report an emergency or report a perceived threat.

If your child is expressing fear or concern regarding these recent events, please let your child's teacher, guidance counselor, or principal know. Please be assured that we have staff in our school buildings that are well-trained and prepared to support your child during such emotionally difficult events.

Sincerely,

James Montesano, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

**Si ou bezwen enfòmasyon tradui an kreyòl, rele Jocelyne Abraham nan 353-7044.
Si le hace falta información traducida en español, llame a Yesenia Polanco 353-7042.**