



GEORGE M. DAVIS JR. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
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NEW ROCHELLE, NEW YORK 10804

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Assistant Principal

December 12, 2014

Davis Families:

A year ago, on December 14, 2012, our lives were changed forever by the shocking tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut. Parents and guardians of elementary school children—and elementary school teachers and staff—felt the vibrations of the horrors in particularly deep and terrifying ways.

The events in Newtown sparked robust discussion, debate, and planning throughout New Rochelle. Our district has devoted a great deal of resources and attention to issues of safety in both broad and small strokes. Ms. Cohen and I have been consistently supported by an active building-based Safety Team and by District Safety Administrators in our efforts to maintain and bolster security structures and protocols. I would like to take this opportunity to review some of the measures we have implemented with regard to ensuring a well-protected, safe, and orderly school for your children and all our staff.

- ✓ Electronic locks and keyless-entry systems have been installed on seven exterior doors;
- ✓ 15 aides and security personnel are stationed around and within our school every morning in order to supervise and protect children throughout their arrival;
- ✓ New fencing and gates have been erected around the perimeter of the campus, allowing Davis staff to better supervise and corral students during recess, arrival, and dismissal;
- ✓ Strict and consistent measures that limit visitor-access inside the school are now in place. Special attention has been given toward ensuring that our school is secure during morning arrival and afternoon dismissal. Cars are not allowed to drive through or wait within the circle in front of our school after morning arrival; as a result, we are better able to monitor and safely dismiss students at the end of each school day;
- ✓ Internal communication systems have been enhanced, allowing Davis staff to communicate at all times from all corners of the campus;
- ✓ Officers from NRPD and NRPD have walked through and around the school completing safety checks and assessments. We have addressed all of their concerns and have complied with their recommendations;
- ✓ Staff and students have successfully completed numerous fire drills and one Shelter-in-Place drill this fall; we will prepare, practice, and of course review and critique our systems and protocols further as we administer yearly lock-down, lock-out, and evacuation drills in the near future.

Securing your children—our students—is a core responsibility we accept daily. I am deeply grateful for the devotion and efforts ALL teachers and staff put forth toward maintaining even the smallest details of our security routines. We pledge to remain resolute in our attention, practice, and planning as we work to sustain a safe and rich learning culture within our school.

As we reflect on the heroism and profound loss one year later, I am compelled as well to thank all of you for your cooperation and faith.

Sincerely,

Michael Galland