

School Safety

March 7, 2016 – to be posted on the web site

The entire faculty of the Hammonton School District is consistently working on and improving our school safety, and we need your help. To be as safe as possible, we need information from all community members on threats of violence to our students and schools.

Our relationship with the Hammonton and Waterford Police departments is exceptionally strong. The NJ Department of Education Office of Preparedness strongly recommends “a great deal of contact with local police” and emphasizes there are “no cookie cutter solutions.”

We frequently have security walk throughs with the Hammonton Police Department. Furthermore, we have an agreement with the Hammonton and Waterford Police to share information. Everything that happens in our schools that rises to the level of possible violations of laws is reported. The departments are also excellent at informing us of incidents in the community that could have a negative impact on the schools.

Each school has a School Safety Team consisting of administrators, teachers, counselors and parents. These teams meet at least twice a year to discuss issues relating to the safety and well-being of our students. In addition, each school in Hammonton conducts 24 drills every year to ensure that safety protocols are understood and followed.

If there is any threat to our schools, we do the following:

- We immediately call the Hammonton Police Department
- We immediately bring the student (or person) to the office – often with a police officer
- We search the student and his/her belongings
- Another administrator searches the student’s locker
- The police decide whether the student should go home or be taken to the police department
- The police continue the investigation at the student’s house
- We suspended the student (often from 10 to 45 days)
- We require a psychological or psychiatric examination before the student returns to school

We will not use a ROBO call to respond to rumors. If parents or community members have any questions, please call the school. We will use a ROBO call:

- If there is a real (not drill) code yellow, code red, or evacuation – we will follow up with another call to inform you that everything is fine.
- If there is a drill that requires police.
- If there is a major traffic occurrence that delays the busses.
- If the police suggest a ROBO call- We will follow up with another call to clarify the situation.
- “Special circumstance” when administration deems that a ROBO call would be necessary

Once again, to be as safe as possible, we need information from all community members on threats of violence to our students and schools.