

GLEN ROCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Superintendent



620 Harristown Road
Glen Rock, N.J. 07452-2398
(201) 445-7700
Fax (201) 389-5019

February 15, 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am writing to you in regards to the recent tragic events in Parkland, Florida that have touched all of us. Please know that every administrator in the Glen Rock School District shares the heightened awareness you undoubtedly have about the safety and security of your own children whom you entrust to us each and every school day.

First, let me remind you that a number of years ago, the district established a School Security Committee for the express purpose of determining the most appropriate security measures for the district. Members of that group included representatives from all district schools and functions, as well as the Glen Rock Police Department. The collective efforts led to many improvements, including surveillance cameras, limited access to the buildings, and the formation of our current Critical Incident Response Team, which has established a formal plan of best practices for responding in an emergency.

As part of the district's security protocol, monthly drills of those "best practices" are held in every school. In addition to fire drills, we practice lock-down, hold-in-place and evacuation drills, among others. Our goal is to ensure that in an actual emergency, our students and staff will know automatically how to react quickly and safely. As I reminded the staff last evening, "...practice alone doesn't make perfect. Perfect practice makes perfect."

I have been in communication with Mayor Packer with regard to this recent incident, and we are committed to further strengthening the collaborative efforts of the school district and borough for the benefit of all. We will continue to work closely with his office and GRPD to monitor our procedures for safely securing the school buildings.

With regard to students' emotional well-being at this time, if you believe your child is being affected by this event, please do not hesitate to contact our school counselors. They are a valuable resource and are prepared to handle questions or comments from students in a sensitive and age-appropriate manner.

In closing, I want to reassure you that we are well aware of our responsibility to provide a safe and secure learning environment for the children of the Glen Rock School District, and we will continue to do our utmost to provide that to the best of our ability.

Sincerely,

Bruce Watson
Interim Superintendent of Schools