

# FAIRFIELD WOODS MIDDLE SCHOOL

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**Gary A. Rosato, Ed.D.**  
Principal

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Assistant Principal

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

Many of you have reached out to me with questions and concerns regarding Mr. Dong and his presence on or near school property. As you now know, a No Trespass order has been issued forbidding Mr. Dong from coming onto any of our school grounds in Fairfield. In addition, he was arrested on Monday after ignoring a police warning to stay away from school property. This subsequently led to the issue of the No Trespass order. Many of you have stated that over the past few weeks, you have seen Mr. Dong riding his Segway in the neighborhood around Fairfield Woods / Jennings and beyond.

Mr. Dong lives on Stratfield Road. He is prohibited from coming onto school property, but that does not limit him from moving around town. It is likely that he will be seen in various locations in Fairfield. At Fairfield Woods, we are in regular communication with the police department. We have learned that our best strategy is to remain vigilant and to report any suspicious persons or behavior to the police immediately so that law enforcement can investigate. That is exactly what was done in this case leading to the No Trespass order and subsequent arrest. I encourage all of you to do the same and to let the police know if you have any concerns about something you have observed.

Regarding school security, again we are taking our lead from the police department and have instituted all of the practices and safety protocols that they have given to us. Our school doors are locked throughout the day with visitor entry to the school isolated to the front door. Administrators and teachers are available during the arrival and dismissal waves. At dismissal, 866 students exit the school at the same time and go in different directions. Most walk to their school bus, some are picked up by their parent, some walk over to the library and some walk home. Staff members are stationed at the 3 main areas for dismissal – the front porch, at the 6<sup>th</sup> grade parent loop and at the auditorium pickup loop. It is not possible to monitor each child once they leave the school and proceed with their dismissal plan. Please be sure your child knows exactly what they are allowed to do once school dismisses at 2:50.

We also have many before and after school activities. The school buildings are town buildings. Like many other public spaces in town, they are used a lot for a variety of purposes. We have clubs, sports and after school activities that bring hundreds of students and often parents into the building. There are many outside community groups also using the schools every night of the week. The schools become a location for community activities much like a public library, a religious building or a sports field. We are not staffed to allow our doors to be locked after school and at night given the amount of after school and community use of the building.

Each morning, students who arrive early are usually meeting with a teacher for extra help, attending a music lesson or rehearsal or have been dropped off by their parents. I am at the front of the building most every morning to monitor who comes in and other staff members are near the 6<sup>th</sup> grade drop off

and the auditorium drop off to assist students. Our doors are locked the minute the last bus departs in the morning which is usually 8:10 and they remain locked until 2:50. We have a police officer assigned to Fairfield Woods and he is here nearly every day, especially at dismissal time. I am in contact with the police department to ensure that we have an adequate police presence on a daily basis. We will continue to follow the safety procedures we have in place and ask that you help us by informing the police when you see suspicious persons or behavior.

Thank you all for your continued help in our efforts to provide a safe and secure learning environment.

Dr. Rosato