

Jennings School

Tony Vuolo • Principal

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December 11, 2013

Dear Jennings,

As we prepare for the one year anniversary of Sandy Hook, I want to reassure the community that the safety and security of the staff and students remains a top priority. The school district and the Fairfield Police Department have played a significant role in supporting these efforts at Jennings and all schools in Fairfield. We continue to strive in creating a welcoming environment while maintaining our safety protocols.

I thought it prudent to review some of the recent changes made to strengthen school safety over the past year. There have been multiple enhancements to our front entrance. The doors remain locked and the staff utilizes a camera and buzzer system to grant access to those appropriate visitors to our building. We received training from the Fairfield Police Department and will continue this partnership to improve our protocols. Recently, we conducted a successful lockdown drill and we will engage in others throughout the school year. The Fairfield Police Department also appointed a new School Safety Unit Supervisor and we work closely with him on a regular basis. Additionally, the Fairfield Police Department performs regular school campus checks throughout the week.

We ask that, as a community, we continue to do our part. Please remember to communicate with classroom teachers and main office staff when visiting the school. It is important to share the reason for visiting and look into the camera so that staff can confirm your identity. It is imperative that you let the school know when someone new may be coming in or picking up a student. Additionally, we ask that you make sure the door closes behind you upon arrival. This is especially important when there are other visitors following you into the school.

The anniversary of Sandy Hook may generate a range of emotional reactions among staff and students. During this time we will follow the same approach as last year to address student questions/concerns. If you have a younger child, we encourage you to limit your child's access to media about the anniversary over the weekend. For older students, keep a close eye on media coverage, watch what your child is reading and watching, and be available to talk with them about information they have accessed. There is an attached document that may assist your discussions at home.

For those children and families who were directly affected by this tragedy, we are aware that the anniversary carries personal meaning. We would like to remind you that our school psychologist and social worker are available to assist you.

By working together we prioritize your children being in a safe and secure learning environment. I am always available if you have questions, comments or concerns.

Regards,

Tony Vuolo
Principal