



PISCATAWAY
TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

Teresa Rafferty, Superintendent of Schools

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PISCATAWAY HIGH SCHOOL

Jason Lester, Principal

Jonathan Bizzell, Assistant Principal

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Dear Piscataway High School Family:

February 2019

As we begin the New Year, it is a good time to share with families our policies and procedures that contribute to a safe and welcoming school environment. A safe school environment means the school is free from violence and crime; there is a positive and welcoming school climate at all times; the environment is drug-free, and students are free from fear and intimidation. We address these goals from two different angles – culture and technology.

We create a safe school culture through clear student expectations (in our Student Handbook); a School Safety Committee; a Crisis Management Team; cooperation with other agencies; and a vibrant program of extracurricular activities. Teachers make an effort to know as many students as possible. Additionally, there are 10 trained security guards and a fulltime School Resource Officer from the Piscataway Police Department. In accordance with Department of Education best practices, all students were recently asked to wear their student IDs visibly.

Technology supplements these human efforts. There are almost 200 cameras throughout the school and campus, magnetic locking doors, video cameras with intercom/buzz-in systems, and metal detecting wands.

In the past, we have conducted practice drills using metal-detecting wands. These wands are similar to the ones used in airports, state and federal buildings, and at many hospitals and businesses. The students selected to participate in these drills have been extremely cooperative and helped us to refine the procedure. These drills are conducted occasionally on unannounced days at random locations in our school.

Please be advised that possession of a weapon in school, either facsimile or real, results in an immediate ten-day suspension. Additional consequences include a 45-day to one year out-of-district placement, and police charges.

I hope that this letter helps you to understand our safety and security procedures. Thank you for your ongoing support and the cooperation of students and staff as we endeavor to provide a safe school environment and the best possible education for all students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Lester".

Jason Lester
Principal

/hf
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