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SECURITY IN THE CHERRY HILL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The safety and well-being of our children and staff in the Cherry Hill Public Schools is the top priority of the Administration and Board of Education. It also is one of the most emotional topics of conversation in our community – and understandably so. We all share the common ground of caring deeply about keeping safe the 11,000 children and 1,700 staff members who enter our buildings each day.

As a District, we follow Best Practices in Security as recommended by the [New Jersey Office of School Preparedness](#), our local law enforcement, our District Director of Security, and mental health professionals.

What is the best way to contribute to greater safety in our schools? Work WITH the District. In the words of Jeff Gale, Director of the NJ Office of School Preparedness, at our [October 2019 Safety & Security Forum](#):

- “We all have to contribute to the security of our school environment. It is not one of those things where we look at our District and say, ‘Whatever’s going on, I don’t like it. Deal with it!’ “
- “How we teach our kids to deal with authority becomes very, very important during emergencies.”
- “Recognize things, report things, and do it appropriately; don’t post it all over the internet.”
- “Have a legitimate conversation with somebody and point out something that they might not be aware of that can address a security concern.”

“I’ve interacted with the principals from Columbine, survivors from Virginia Tech, the SRO from Arapahoe, the father who lost his daughter from Platte Canyon, and what you’ll find is – what we’re doing here, and what your school is falling in line with and was doing even before we set foot in the door, really does have your kids’ best interests at heart,” Mr. Gale said at the Forum. “I think you should feel good, collectively, as parents. You should understand that this is a process. It’s not a goal where you run across the finish line and say, ‘We’re done with this.’ That’s not how this works. You’re all a part of the process.”

We look forward to continuing our work for improved safety and security in our schools in collaboration with [experts in the field](#), the members of our [Safety & Security Committee](#), and any community member who wishes to contribute.