



## ROCKAWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

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MR. ANTHONY GRIECO  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

April 7, 2023

Dear Rockaway Borough School Community:

Recent events of school violence have shaken our nation. These heartbreaking incidents have prompted us, as a school community, to reaffirm our commitment to an environment where every student and staff member feels safe and protected while learning takes place.

As a parent and school administrator, I assure you that the safety and security of our students and staff is our top priority. We have implemented several measures to ensure this, and will continue to do so, including, but not limited to:

- Two Class 3 Police Officers under the direction of the Rockaway Borough Police Department (one added at the start of this current school year). Officer Mark Rogalsky and Officer Scott Haigh have an extensive law enforcement background, work closely with staff/students, the Rockaway Borough Police Department, and other pertinent agencies to ensure that we are at the forefront in this area.
- Safety drills and retraining exercises after the COVID guidelines limited schools over the last few years
- A close relationship with the Rockaway Borough Police Department, other law enforcement agencies, the Borough of Rockaway, and neighboring school districts. *Our local police department is top notch.*
- Security Vestibules in both buildings.
- Additional installation and upgrade of security cameras across the district
- New interior and exterior doors
- Swipe system
- Safety and Security Window Film installation
- New panic alarms and strobe lights currently being installed

We encourage students, parents, and staff to play their part in maintaining a safe and secure environment in our schools. We urge all of you to report any suspicious activity or behavior to our staff or local law enforcement immediately.

In addition to safety and security, the district has stressed the importance of mental health initiatives through various awareness workshops/assemblies/programs. Additionally, we have dedicated school counselors available daily to assist students as needed, as well as a partnership with Thrive and many other agencies/vendors throughout the state, both private and public.

Lastly, if there ever is an emergency, please be careful disseminating any information on social media or similar forums related to school events, especially when it is about children. These

statements can compromise the safety of students and staff. When necessary, updates will go out as soon as possible in any emergency situation. I can assure you that I will not be sitting behind a computer or on the phone in an office if I can physically assist in any situation on site. *The same goes for all of our staff.*

Schools are not just a place for learning, but they are also a safe haven for our kids. The best criticism we can get in this area is that we are overprepared. We will continue to work tirelessly to maintain the highest possible level of safety/security in all of our schools because we believe that nothing is more important.

Sincerely,

*Anthony Grieco*

Anthony Grieco

Superintendent of Schools