



Pleasantville Public Schools

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Home of the Greyhounds

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March 18, 2022,

Dear Pleasantville Parents and Community Members,

We hope this communication finds you in good health and high spirits. This letter is to address the recent incidents that have occurred on the Middle School and High School campuses. We, as an administrative team, have been meeting on a daily basis to address these incidents of concern and together develop solutions that will ensure all staff, students, and community members are treated with respect, dignity, and inclusivity on the school campus and at school functions. We are aware of the use of a racial term by a staff member and we are exhausting all options in addressing racial biases. At this time please know that staff members are going through a series of trainings including cultural sensitivity and diversity equity and inclusion.

Our objective is always to create a welcoming school environment for all of our students. Student safety will always be our primary concern. In an effort to ensure an incident like this does not repeat itself, the following changes have been made:

- Class III Police Offices will be present on campus throughout the day
- Students engaged in workshops to encourage understanding of behavior standards and school expectations
- Security procedures and presence have been updated

Additionally, staff at our schools will continue to monitor student behavior and carry out welfare checks when there is a concern. Our counselors and social workers are available to help staff and students. All Pleasantville Public School students, parents, and employees are asked to say something if they see, hear, or know of anything that could pose a safety threat.

The mental health and behavior challenge all schools deal with in normal times, now seem to be exacerbated by the pandemic as predicted when schools worldwide closed in response to the global health threat in March of 2020. Schools provide safety, structure, social connectedness, and much more. We know students can struggle with conflict resolution if they don't have adult supervision. We also know a home can present its dangers if items prohibited in schools are in reach and brought on to our campuses. School safety is a shared responsibility. It is now more important than ever to talk with your children, be aware of their social media activity, listen to their concerns, and access available school wellness resources if needed. We also encourage you to contact your school principal if you have any immediate concerns.

We are committed to the safety of the students, staff, and community alike and will continue to work closely with local law enforcement through the investigation of this incident.

Thank you,

Ms. Karin Farkas

Mrs. Daile White

Dr. Christiana Otuwa

Mr. Ricardo Jones