

HOLLAND TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

Mrs. Stephanie Snyder, Superintendent & Supervisor of Special Services
Mrs. Susan Wardell, Principal/Curriculum & 504 Coordinator

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October 13, 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians:

As per New Jersey statute, N.J.S.A 18A:17-43.3, all school are required to have a Threat Assessment Team to prevent targeted violence and ensure a safe and secure school environment that enhances the learning experience for all members of our school community.

This statute also requires us to provide information to staff, students, and parents regarding behaviors of concern and to establish an anonymous reporting system for these concerning behaviors.

Behaviors of concern are as follows:

“Atypical behavior” means behavior atypical for the person or situation and causes concern for the safety or well-being of those involved. Atypical behavior for an individual involves actions, statements, communications, or responses that are unusual for the person or situation; or actions which could lead to violence toward self of others; or are reasonably perceived as threatening or causing concern for the well-being of the person.

“Concerning behavior” means an observable behavior that elicits concerns in bystanders regarding the safety of an individual or those around them. Behaviors that may elicit concern can include unusual interests in violent topics, conflicts between classmates, increased anger, increased substance use, or other noteworthy changes in behavior (e.g. depression or withdrawal from social activities). Some concerning behaviors may be defined as prohibited behaviors and should trigger an immediate response. Prohibited behaviors can include threats, weapons violations, and other aggressive or violent behavior.

“Concerning Communication” means unusual, bizarre, threatening or violent communication made by an individual or a group that elicit concerns for the safety or wellbeing of the individual or others. Concerning communication may allude to violent intentions, violence as a means to solve a problem, justifying violent acts, unusual interest in weapons, personal grievances, or other inappropriate interests. Concerning communications may also allude to hopelessness or suicide. Concerning communications may be made in the form of written or oral statements, gestures, or visual/electronic media. Communications may be considered concerning regardless of whether a direct verbal threat is expressed.

The district will be using an anonymous reporting App called “StopIt” for parents, students and community members to share concerning behavior/statements with district personnel.

Please reach out to Stephanie Snyder with any questions or concerns.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Snyder
Superintendent

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