



READINGTON TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Updates from Dr. Hart

August, 2018

Updated Visitor Protocols for Entering the Building

School safety and security has been a priority for the district, and in an effort to improve the safety of our students and staff, we have developed specific protocols for visitors who enter our school buildings. While the new changes may seem inconvenient to some, we believe these protocols are important to ensure the safety of our students and staff. The protocols visitors will follow are outlined below. All visitors will:

- Be required to buzz into the building and announce his/her name;
- Report immediately to the main office upon entrance to the building;
- Show identification (ID) to an office staff member;
- Be asked to name the nature of his/her visit. Please note that meetings with staff will occur by appointment only;
- Sign-in and take a visitor badge (all visitors will wear the badge so it is visible);
- In most cases, wait in the main office until the staff member is able to greet the visitor and escort him/her to the meeting location;
- Sign-out and leave the visitor badge with an office staff member.

Furthermore, it is important to be vigilant in supporting the district in these efforts by refraining from holding doors for other visitors, and when dropping off forgotten lunches, sneakers, instruments, etc. please leave those materials in the bin or on the table as instructed.

Updated Policies that May be of Interest

The Board of Education updated and adopted two policies that may be of particular interest to you: Policy 5512 - Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB) and Policy 5533 - Student Smoking. The update to our HIB policy is required by law as the NJ State Board of Education approved revisions to administrative code, N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.7. The smoking policy now encompasses information about vaping devices. You can review the policies in their entirety by visiting our website and looking under quick links.

School Facilities - Summer Work

Our school facilities received some updates over the summer. Specific hallways at Whitehouse School received new floors, fresh paint, and new lighting fixtures. Holland Brook received fresh paint in certain hallways and classrooms. The walkway between Holland Brook and the middle school is complete and will have new light posts in the coming weeks. The middle school received a newly poured concrete staircase at the side entry and both student and faculty

restrooms have been renovated. All schools have received their annual summer cleaning in preparation for staff and students.

A Message from Chief of Police, Joe Greco

The 2018/2019 School Year starts on Thursday September 6th, residents should plan for delays due to school bus traffic. It is important to remember that our children will be riding these buses and to use extreme caution when approaching school buses and bus stops. The Readington Township Police will be monitoring school bus routes and stops periodically and will enforce all traffic laws.

Motorists should be aware that all Readington Township School busses are outfitted with cameras that record the entire bus route. These cameras can capture the violator's license plates and the identity of the driver. As bus drivers report these violations to the Readington Township Police Department, officers have a zero tolerance for school bus violations. The violator will be issued a summons for: 39:4-128.1 Improper Passing School Bus

On a New Jersey undivided highway, when approaching or overtaking a stopped bus that is being used to transport children to or from school or a summer day camp or a school connected activity, a driver must stop at least 25 feet from the bus and wait until all children have entered the bus or safely reached the side of the road, or until the bus is no longer exhibiting a flashing red light. (The bus driver will exhibit a flashing red light until all children entering or exiting the bus have reached a place of safety.)

Similarly, on a divided highway, a driver must stop and wait when passing a bus from behind. When passing on a divided highway in the opposite direction, a driver must slow to 10 miles per hour until passing the bus and any children that are entering or exiting.

When a school bus is parked at the curb in front of a school, a day camp, or a school connected activity and is receiving or discharging children directly to or from that location, a driver may pass without stopping, but not at a speed above 10 miles per hour.

*Penalties for violating NJSA 39:4-128.1 will result in a fine of not less than \$100 and **5 points on your driving record** and the possibility of community service and or up to 15 days in jail.*

Please be aware of stopped school buses to help keep our children safe.