



# Rochelle Park School District

## Board of Education

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Dear Parents,

During the course of each month, we conduct a series of drills to ensure that our students are aware of critical safety procedures in the case of an emergency. As you may or may not know, one of the drills we conduct is called a "lockdown" drill. This particular drill is practiced in the event that an active shooter or another individual intending to do harm were to come into our building. It is a protective measure to keep our students and staff out of sight from a dangerous intruder and out of harm's way.

In assessing the safety of our building with our Superintendent, Dr. Zoeller, and our Facilities Coordinator, Mr. Woods, we have determined that the lunchtime periods are an area of concern. With a large number of students gathered in one room, we need to ensure that we have procedures in place that will protect them should a dangerous situation arise in our building. That being said, we will begin a series of lockdown drills over the next couple of weeks (December and January) with students in **all grade levels** during their lunch periods.

The drills that are conducted in the cafeteria will demonstrate to the students which procedures they need to follow during a lockdown. For the students in the primary grades, we will handle these drills in a manner that is age-appropriate. This is a situation where many of our "little ones" may become frightened. We are fully aware of this, and we will do everything possible to make this experience as comfortable as possible for them.

The safety of our students is our top priority. Any potential concerns in our building simply cannot be overlooked or ignored. There is too much at stake. Therefore, we will continue to create and practice plans that are necessary to protect our children.

Sincerely,

Brian R. Cannici  
Acting Principal