

WESTHILL CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dear Parents and Westhill Community,

The Board of Education and the entire staff is committed to providing a safe learning environment for the students and staff of the Westhill Central School District. The horrifying acts of violence and threats occurring in schools across the nation give just cause to review current practices and explore means of improvement. Keeping a focus on learning should be the work of students and teachers, yet sadly, that's just not the state of our nation's schoolhouses in today's world.

There are a number of security measures, support systems, and protocols that exist in our schools. An overview of such measures follows:

- District-wide and building specific safety plans
- Fire drills, lockout drills, and lockdown drills are practiced regularly in each building
- Each building maintains a single point of entry during school hours
- Raptor System sign in system installed 2014
- All interior door locks were upgraded in 2015
- District Mental Health Committee established in 2015
- School climate initiatives: The Positivity Project and Rachel's Challenge were initiated in 2017
- Guest speakers to address students' social media responsibility

Security measures in process include:

- Upgrade of all security cameras and system in each building (funded through the Smart Bond Schools Act)
- Staff Development Day on March 16 devoted to active shooter training and district security

Security measures under consideration include:

- Implementation of a School Resource Officer(s) (SRO) (Westhill had one district-wide SRO until 2012, when NYS funding ceased)
- Installing security window film
- Revising student entrance patterns

How you can help: *(For best results, visit the district's website main page to access the survey or copy and paste the links below into your browser.)*

- Complete the district survey available here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SBGHZNN> or on the district website to help us with our planning. Your opinions are crucial and valued. All responses are anonymous.
- Contact your NYS legislators to support legislation under consideration to fund additional school security measures
 - Bills under consideration can be seen here:
<http://www.westhillschools.org/tfiles/folder1103/Bills%20Under%20Consideration.pdf>
 - Legislative contact information can be found here:
<http://www.westhillschools.org/tfiles/folder1103/Legislative%20Contact%20Info.pdf>

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Westhill Central School District.

Sincerely,



Casey W. Barduhn
Superintendent of Schools

"Westhill . . . Where Educational Excellence is a Tradition"
www.westhillschools.org