

GREEN TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

Box 14, GREENDELL, NEW JERSEY 07839

www.greenhills.org

John Z. Nittolo
Superintendent
973-300-3800
Fax 973-383-0594

Jennifer Thompson
Principal/Coordinator
of Instruction
973-300-3800
Fax 973-383-5705

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Dear Green Hills Community,

I know the recent events in Parkland, Florida are still fresh in everyone's mind. We see constant reminders on social media and the news. It has become a sad reality of the times we live in. There isn't a day that goes by that I am not stopped in my tracks by the stories I hear.

As a parent of GHS students and as the chief school administrator for Green Hills, I can tell you that nothing is more important to me than creating the safest and most secure environment. Over the past week, we have met with our assigned State Troopers, we have continued the process of increasing the various levels of security in place at GHS, we have contracted with security providers for new systems to increase safety, we have begun the process of removing unnecessary or dangerously placed fire alarm pull boxes, and we have contracted with a self-defense company to train our staff and interested students during after school hours on self-defense techniques.

I want to show up every day with your children and help create the best version of each of them. To do that, they need to know that they are valued and that they matter. We need to listen to them, hear their concerns, allow them to make choices, and not waste their time when they are here. We need to create whole children that are well rounded and feel a part of a community that cares about them.

Please know that we are here for all of you. We will listen to you. We will meet with you. No question is too trivial, and no event should go unaddressed.

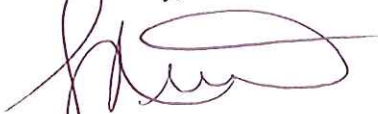
Because of the role social media plays in most of our lives, I have included my two posts on the topic of school safety after the shooting in Florida that left 17 dead.

And I know tomorrow, I will go to Green Hills with dedicated, selfless professionals that are ready to protect their children with every fiber of their being. We know that we have done everything possible to create the safest environment possible, and yet I know it is never enough. We treat each child as a unique, valued, important individual...trying to help them become the best version of themselves

School and education in general are human constructs...we create them. They don't just exist. So, let's decide that school is about helping every child to be the best version of him/herself. To laugh, have choices, be heard, and create...whatever it is we can do to let them know they matter. Maybe if less kids felt invisible or marginalized we would have less of these horrific acts. I walked my halls today seeing moments of beauty with adults and children freely sharing their gifts. Or I could be as wrong as everybody else. I can't shake yesterday. But I do believe that tomorrow will be a better day.

I care, and I am prepared to do whatever necessary to protect your children.

Sincerely,



John Nittolo
Superintendent