



John C. Anzul, Ed.D. Superintendent

## Oradell Public School District

350 Prospect Avenue | Oradell, NJ 07649 | [oradellschool.org](http://oradellschool.org) | (201)261-1180 x3

February 23, 2018

To All:

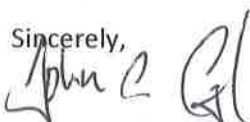
*Our children,  
our hope,  
our future*

Our hearts go out to the entire school community and all of the families who have been forced to endure a horrific act of violence in South Florida. This recent event, as well as others which have occurred throughout the nation, is something that will have a lasting effect on the lives of parents and children all around our country. We share in the grief of those families who have been impacted by this dreadful event. Our thoughts, prayers, and condolences are with the entire community of Parkland, Florida.

Well before this recent tragedy occurred the District began taking steps to evaluate and upgrade our security procedures. We utilized a number of outside experts in safety and security to identify areas of weakness, and make improvements. We have been meeting with the local police on a regular basis to review security and emergency procedures, and to ensure that we are doing everything possible to make our school as safe as possible. We continue to practice and evaluate our safety procedures in collaboration with the Oradell Police Department. We have installed security cameras in key locations, and we frequently review and update our equipment, and continue to assess our building entrance procedures. Each month we practice drills and various types of evacuations, as required by law, a number of which are under the direct supervision of the Oradell Police Department. In addition, the Police Department took advantage of days when our building was unused this past fall to conduct their own set of drills. We have developed a safety manual, recently appointed a School Safety Specialist, and constantly review and evaluate our threat assessment with local and county officials. Our local Police Department—who are also our next-door neighbors—are well trained, and continue to work closely with our administration and staff. Please be aware that since the start of the school year the Oradell police have increased their presence in and around our school. They also have the ability to remotely monitor our security cameras.

I am sure that as parents you may be faced with a number of questions about school violence. In order to assist any student or parent who has concerns we have personnel available at the school to provide counseling. Throughout the coming weeks the administration will continue to assess our needs and provide support wherever and whenever it is needed. Each child processes and reacts to such situations differently, and we will do whatever is necessary to meet their individual needs at this difficult time. You may contact either the principal or me at any time should you feel the need to do so.

You may also want to consider visiting the following site as a resource—*Talking to Children About Violence: Tips for Parents and Educators* ([www.nasponline.org/children-and-violence](http://www.nasponline.org/children-and-violence)).

Sincerely,  
  
John C. Anzul, Ed.D.  
Superintendent