



WEST END SCHOOL
132 West End Avenue, Long Branch, New Jersey 07740
(732) 222-3215

MICHAEL SALVATORE
Superintendent of Schools

"Where Children Matter Most"

CHRISTOPHER VOLPE
Principal
Fax: (732) 222-6953

April 15, 2013

Dear Long Branch Parents,

Since the tragic events in Newtown, Connecticut, the Board of Education and District Administration have been actively exploring best practices in school safety. We have established School Safety Committees in each school whose members have made recommendations to further improve the security of each building. Among those recommendations were building access cards, building risk assessments, video cameras, and additional training for school safety personnel. After reviewing our procedure for visitors to schools, it was found that there is a need to make some changes to the procedure. The revised procedure for visitors is listed below.

Please be aware that the new protocol will go into effect on Monday, April 22, 2013.

Revised Visitor to School Procedure

- No visitors are to enter the building with students during arrival. All visitors to our schools will need to have an appointment to enter the building. (If you require assistance, an appointment must be made after the start of the school day).
- If a visitor arrives without an appointment, they may be subject to intense security screening which may result in substantial wait time.
- At the buzzer, it is expected that all visitors will state the purpose of their visit and/or specify with whom they have an appointment.
- If the appointment is verified, the visitor will be buzzed in and must present themselves to the main office immediately upon entry.
- Visitors will be required to show photo identification, and sign in to obtain a visitor's pass.
- It is imperative that visitors do not hold the door open for others behind them. Each visitor must be acknowledged individually through the buzzer system.
- No visitors are to enter the building during dismissal. If you will be picking your child up early, you must notify the office in writing prior to dismissal. If it is an emergency, call the office to notify the school.
- Front Office secretaries will be required to call 911 and notify school administrators if a visitor is uncooperative, does not adhere to the procedures, or becomes threatening.
- Ultimately, failure to follow these procedures may result in a lockdown.

We know that this protocol is more stringent than past practice and may inconvenience our visitors who are, as always, welcome in our schools. Unfortunately, these are the times we are living in, and I am optimistic that our visitors will ultimately recognize our need to be as vigilant as possible.

If you should require clarification regarding the new protocol please contact me. I will be happy to answer your questions to ensure your full understanding and adherence to our procedures. With your cooperation, our schools will be more secure for students and staff.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,


Christopher Volpe