

January 2013



Dear Whitney Point Community,

Safety is on the minds of many people today and I would like to assure you that in the Whitney Point Central School District, the safety of our students, faculty, and staff is a priority each day.

The district has a comprehensive safety plan that is reviewed annually and contains a number of policies and procedures that are regularly practiced. Included are specific protocols for lockdowns, lockouts, bomb threats, fires, and weather-related emergencies. Students, teachers and administrators are ready to implement these protocols at a moment's notice. A safety team, with members from each school, meets regularly with the district's safety officer to review any safety concerns in the district.

Thanks to our recent district-wide renovation project, each school has a single entry point that requires two doors to be unlocked before visitors enter any building. The doors lead visitors into a main office where they are required to sign in and receive a visitor's badge. Employees are issued security badges used to open outside doors, eliminating keys which can be lost or copied. The district's security system is able to monitor the use of badges and can remotely deactivate any badge that is lost or misused.

The renovation project also allowed the district to upgrade its surveillance system and there are currently 117 cameras monitoring the interior and exterior of buildings. Activity around the district can be observed, recorded, and retrieved if anything suspicious needs to be reviewed. Additionally, alarms monitored by a security company alert us to any suspicious or illegal entries when schools are closed.

The Whitney Point Central School District is currently working to review its security measures after the tragic incident in Connecticut, as we believe there is always room for improvement. New York State recently passed legislation that includes a provision for teams of law enforcement and emergency services personnel to review school safety plans. The district is also looking into a system to alert parents electronically if there is an emergency in the district. Security is and remains our number one priority. To assure that our schools are a safe place for everyone, it is important for the entire community to work together by being vigilant and respectful of school policies.

Sincerely,

**Patricia Follette**