



Mar. 24, 2023

Dear Spencerport Families,

A flood of so-called “swatting” calls have disrupted schools around the country this year, and this week Hilton has received two threats that have caused fear and a large-scale police response. In those situations, it takes time for officers to determine that the reports are hoaxes, and school and district administrators have the big task of restoring a sense of normalcy for students and their families after they get the all-clear.

I understand the anxiety a situation like that can cause for our families, students, staff, and community. I have frequently shared that we will continue to make every effort to maintain an environment where students and staff feel safe. I thought it would be helpful to proactively review our safety and security program with our families and offer updates on our new safety initiatives. Please be aware that our work continues to be ongoing, as we build layers of security and enhancements into our schools and buildings:



- Operational Security Department. Our Director of Security, Chris Mears, and SWOOP staff are responsible for school safety and security in our buildings. In addition, we have engaged in considerable emergency response planning and training throughout this school year. Schools will continue to practice a variety of emergency drills, such as lock out, shelter in place, and lockdown drills. Please become familiar with our [Security Department at this link](#)
- Partnership with the Ogden Police Department. The district continues to enjoy a close partnership with OPD. This includes visible patrols on our campus, regular officer presence in our schools, continued collaboration to bridge the efforts between schools, families, and community policing efforts, and immediate response to any requests for emergency or non-emergency support.

- Single points of entry. One designated point of entry is in effect for each building. All doors are locked during the instructional day, and entry is monitored and secured. Building administrators have been evaluating our procedures to ensure that all visitors have expressed permission to enter.
- More secured entrances. The next capital project will include more secured entrances at each building. These enhancements will be an added layer of security to complement our existing procedures.
- Raptor system. We consistently utilize our Raptor system, which scans a visitor's driver license against the National Sex Offender Registry. Once cleared, the system generates an identity badge for display while a visitor is in the building.
- Video cameras. Additional camera systems have been installed across our buildings and school grounds this year. This has allowed us to extend coverage and broaden safety/security across our campus.
- Safety/security planning. The district has contracted with Altaris Consulting Group, a nationally-known security firm that specializes in K-12 school security. This partnership includes:
 - Extensive safety and security reviews at all schools to assess our programs and equipment
 - Completion of comprehensive and consistent building and district emergency response plans
 - Comprehensive emergency management and response training for all administrators and emergency response teams across the district.
 - 24/7 emergency planning and support

The events this week in Hilton remind us how important it is to remain diligent with our practices and protocols. Remember, if you see something, please say something. To make that as easy as possible, please use our anonymous ["Tip Line" to report something](#) that appears suspicious or might be a risk to students or staff.

Lastly, as the week comes to a close, I would like to extend a special note of thanks to the individuals who sit on our different safety teams. Your work is greatly appreciated.

Updates

Day of Play 2023



Day of Play is critical for building key skills

When my son was in preschool, we would often visit the Strong National Museum of Play and he would love to pretend in the exhibitions and play for hours imagining and creating. As educators, we know that play is both fun and a vital way that children learn about themselves and the world around them. It is the very best way for kids to think creatively while also exploring new things, overcoming fears and building friendships. Simply put, play matters in children's lives.

Today, our elementary students enjoyed a half-day of play. Instructionally, our entire staff planned and prepared for learning experiences that align with developing and practicing important social skills, as well as supporting the development of fine and large motor skills, problem-solving, learning from mistakes, improvising, and critical thinking.

Photo albums from today may be found [on our website at this link](#). The New York State Education Department provided information and resources describing the value of play in the attachment at the end of this email.

Bright Spots

MUNN'S MARIE CARELLA IS...

**A WROC-8
GOLDEN APPLE
TEACHER!**



CONGRATULATIONS!

Munn teacher receives Golden Apple honor

Munn third-grade teacher Marie Carella received a special surprise on Wednesday, when WROC-TV 8 presented her with a Golden Apple Award.

Reporter Katrina Irwin shared that Mrs. Carella was nominated by parent Lindsey Marciano for her compassion, communication, and commitment to students and families.

Marciano, who is the parent of Jayse and Kennedy Valdez, said in her submission, "I nominated Mrs. Carella for multiple reasons. She advocated for our son who struggled as a student, and he is now thriving. That is 100% because of her and her determination to get him the help that he needs. Her communication with us is top notch. She will call not only to tell us if there is anything we can work on at home or if something had gone on in the day but also his SUCCESSES. As a parent it's so scary to send your kids off to school but knowing these children have someone like Mrs. Carella in their corner is so comforting. She is warm, inviting, hardworking, kind and an overall amazing human. She deserves this award and so much more!"

The Golden Apple feature will air on Tuesday, Apr. 11, between 5:30 and 6 p.m. We hope you join us in congratulating Mrs. Carella.



Ranger Robotics having a stellar season so far

Our Ranger Robotics Team 3015 has competed in the Finger Lakes and Long Island Regionals this month, and with their alliances, have won both!

The FL Regional consisted of 55 teams and our alliance included Canandaigua academy and Greece Gladiators. The LI Regional consisted of 45 teams and our alliance was with a team from with Hicksville and Cold Spring Harbor. Our Rangers also won the Excellence in Engineering Award in Long Island.

Next up is the New York Tech Valley Regional from March 29-April 1 in Albany. Our Robotics team, coaches, advisors and volunteers work incredibly hard each season, and we are so proud of them. Their season reveal video may be found at this link. Congratulations!



Congratulations to Cosgrove Drama for Seussical the Musical production

Congratulations to the cast and crew of Cosgrove Middle School's production of Seussical the Musical. The performances were phenomenal, and I couldn't believe these were middle schoolers. I look forward to their performances in the years to come.



Upcoming events

- Mar. 28: Board of Education meeting, 7 p.m., D.O.
- Apr. 3-7: Spring Recess: no school

Ramadan this month

Ramadan is considered one of the holiest months of the year for Muslims. In Ramadan, Muslims commemorate the revelation of the Qur'an, and fast during the sunlit hours as a spiritual means to cultivate self-control, gratitude, and compassion for those less fortunate. I'd like to wish everyone a Ramadan Mubarak, or Happy Ramadan.

Sincerely,

Kristin Swann
Superintendent of Schools



Play_ Understanding the Value of Play.pdf

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Spencerport Central School District