



**Howard J. Dennis**  
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March 7, 2018

In light of recent events, the Penn Yan Central School District would like to reaffirm our commitment to the safety of all students and staff. School safety has been, and continues to be, our number one priority. I would like to outline for you our current work and future work focused around safety.

Our current safety protocols include:

- A comprehensive District and School safety plan that is reviewed and revised regularly.
- A Safety Committee that meets regularly to review our safety plan and address issues across the District.
- A full time, on-campus, School Resource Officer
- An on-going partnership between the PYCSD Administrative Team, Penn Yan Police Department, and Yates County Sheriff to review emergency procedures and drill procedures.
- Drills that are conducted in-house as well as in conjunction with other community agencies.
- Increased mental health services available on campus.
- The use of camera systems inside and outside of all buildings which we continue to update and expand upon.
- The development of secure entrances at the Middle and Elementary Schools as part of our capital project that will begin this summer.

Our next steps as a district:

- We continue to welcome all ideas and thoughts with regard to safety and will continue to review them as they are received.
- Concerns can be sent directly to me and I will forward them on to the appropriate personnel.
- The District Safety Committee and administrative team will continue to examine additional ways we can safeguard our staff and students and seek out trainings that can benefit our staff.
- Our goal is to continually evaluate, improve, adapt and update our emergency preparedness.

We will continue to strive to maintain our community-based school setting while also having the appropriate measures in place to protect the safety of our students and staff. As we have all heard recently, the most effective method of monitoring safety is through the collective eyes and ears of the individuals we interact with every day. The phrase - If you see something, say something is so appropriate. Please don't be afraid to reach out and share any relevant information with us here in the district.

Thank you again for your support and willingness to work together to protect our students.

Howard Dennis  
Superintendent