

Somerville Public Schools

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Dear Somerville Community,

The shooting this week at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida was another senseless and horrific tragedy. We as a community will keep all of the families that have been affected by the senseless violence in our thoughts and prayers.

Incidents such as this cause us to re-examine all we do in our schools to ensure that we have measures in place to keep our students, staff, and visitors safe at all times. Although no one can guarantee that an individual intent on causing harm to others will not be successful, please be assured that all of Somerville's schools have numerous safety measures in place to create a safe environment.

In times like this, we know parents and community members want to know the specifics of what is in place, but for the safety and well-being of everyone, it is imperative that we do not divulge the efforts we have undergone to create a safe environment. However, please know that our plans have been developed and reviewed by law enforcement. Furthermore, as an added measure to ensure optimal safety procedures, we invite law enforcement to our safety drills so they can critique our procedures. Through their expert involvement, continual improvements are made.

We do encourage anyone who observes anything that they feel could be a breach in our security measures to contact their child's building principal. We remain open to all feedback because we are committed to the safety of our students, staff, and visitors.

The link below provides information to help you talk to your children about this tragedy.

<http://bit.ly/parentaltalkingpoints>

Sincerely,

Dr. Timothy Teehan