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WEST ELIZABETH - JEFFERSON HILLS - PLEASANT HILLS

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Dear Parents and Guardians:

As you may know the Board of School Directors has approved the purchase of a metal detector and pilot program for Thomas Jefferson High School. The district will begin the pilot program beginning the week of May 7, 2018.

The program will be run by randomly selecting a bus, walkers/drop offs, junior drivers, or senior drivers on the days of the search. Students will be escorted to the metal detector lines by administration and will be asked to form two lines; males and females. Students will be asked to empty their pockets and place all items in a plastic bin with their devices, cell phones, and keys. Students should keep their shoes, belts, and watches on during the process. Prior to walking through the detector, the students will place their bins and bags on a table which will be searched by staff members. The students will then walk through the metal detector. If the student sets off the alarm they will be escorted to a separate more private area for level 2 screening. Level 2 screening will involve administration (male and female) and the district's school police officer using a wand to identify the metal object setting off the alarm. Please assure your children that depending on their belts, watches, etc., there is a chance that these items may be the cause of the alarm.

Please make our school nurse aware of any medical condition or surgically implanted device that your child has that may be adversely affected by going through a metal detector. For example, any child that has a pacemaker or defibrillator should not go through the metal detector. Most surgically implanted devices, such as artificial hips, or metal rods, may set off the metal detector, but will not cause harm. Please provide medical documentation verifying the condition and/or implant your child has and if they would be adversely affected by using a metal detector. If you are not sure if a condition, implant, or magnet your child has will be adversely affected by the metal detector, please consult your child's physician and then relay the information you obtain to our school nurse.

We are asking for your cooperation with the following items:

- Have your students clean out their book bags and purses. All chosen students will have their bags searched upon entering the building.
- Review the procedures with your children and talk about the importance of maintaining a safe school environment

Sincerely,

Scott T. Milburn
Assistant Superintendent - Secondary Education