



ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
830 OLD CLAIRTON ROAD  
JEFFERSON HILLS, PA 15025  
PHONE: 412-655-8450  
FAX: 412-655-9544  
[www.wjhsd.net](http://www.wjhsd.net)

WEST ELIZABETH - JEFFERSON HILLS - PLEASANT HILLS

DR. JANET M. SARDON  
*Superintendent*

DR. MATTHEW J. PATTERSON  
*Assistant Superintendent*

MRS. TRACY A. HARRIS  
*Director of Finance*

**March 29, 2023**

**Dear WJHSD Parent/Guardian:**

As a school district, the safety and security of our students and staff is our top priority. The violence that recently occurred within the school environment causes an immense and unfathomable sadness, as well as concern among educators, parents, students, and staff across our schools, state and country.

This morning, there were reports regarding hoaxes of active shooters across Pittsburgh and several other Pennsylvania counties. Districts have been receiving what are known as "swatting" calls. These calls have originated from out of area phone numbers, typically on non-emergency lines, and indicate there is an active shooter on campus. At this time, our district has not received any calls or any such hoaxes that would indicate an issue. We are aware of several schools and universities that are on lockdown as these situations are being investigated.

Being proactive is of critical importance with regard to school safety and security. Today, as a precautionary measure, we have chosen to keep students inside for recess and physical education until we have additional confirmed information regarding these local situations.

Collaboration and relationships are critical in building a team approach to keeping our schools safe. The WJHSD partners with our local police, fire, ambulance, and emergency management departments. Our police partners visit our schools regularly to offer an additional presence and support. We annually hold a meeting with first responders to discuss protocols, security and best practices. In addition, monthly we convene with internal district personnel to discuss school safety.

We are fortunate to have School Police and Resource officers at each building who have an expertise in school safety. Our buildings have procedures and protocols that are done daily, including use of metal detectors, bag checks, visitor identification systems, and use of emergency notifications. Within each school building, drills are done regularly with regard to fire, bus evacuations, ALICE and weather.

In addition to the items mentioned above, we have guidance counselors, social workers, and AHN Chill Project educators to work with students to assist with any education, and counseling for any issues or concerns our students or staff may have.

As a district, we thank you for your continued support of our programs, schools and community. Thank you and please reach out to me or your student(s) school administration if you have any questions or concerns.

**Sincerely,**

**Dr. Janet Sardon**  
**Superintendent**  
**West Jefferson Hills School District**