

# ISLIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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DENNIS P. O'HARA, Ed.D.  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

January 27, 2023

Dear Islip Families:

The Islip School District strives to provide our students with the highest quality education in a safe and healthy environment. As part of this endeavor, we are committed to increasing the awareness and readiness of our entire school community in the event of an emergency. This includes building and maintaining strong partnerships with emergency services such as Suffolk County Police Department, Islip Fire Department, and the Suffolk County Office of Emergency Management, among others.

Through these partnerships, Islip High School will host an active shooter drill this Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, for members of emergency services from across Suffolk County. Working with SCPD's Department of Homeland Security, first responders, including our own security team, will have the opportunity to engage in various active-shooter scenarios throughout the high school. This preparedness drill will provide first responders with firsthand insight to our school layout and experience in implementing best practices in these situations. While we hope they will never need to utilize these skills in a real emergency, it is only through planning and preparation that we can provide the best-possible outcome.

Due to the nature of this drill, our high school campus will be closed to the public on Sunday from 6:00 a.m. to approximately 1:00 p.m. During this time, you may observe multiple police, fire, and rescue vehicles in the vicinity. Please do not be alarmed, as this will be part of the exercise.

I am honored that our district was selected to host this important event, and I know that it will only serve to improve the safety and security of our students, faculty, and staff.

On another matter, the New York State Education Department recently convened a Blue Ribbon Commission of stakeholders to review the graduation requirements for students in New York State. As part of this process, they are seeking input from parents, teachers, and community members. The current question posed by the commission is "What opportunities, experiences, and courses should be available to students in high school that align with their needs, dreams, and career exploration? Which of these should be mandatory?" [Should you wish to contribute to this conversation, please visit the Commission's ThoughtExchange site to share your suggestions.](#)

Thank you for your continued support and partnership, and please call me directly with your questions.

Sincerely,



Dennis P. O'Hara, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

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The Islip School District hereby advises students, parents, employees and the general public that it offers employment and educational opportunities, without regard to sex, race, color, national origin or handicap. Inquiries regarding this non-discrimination policy may be directed to: Title IX Coordinator and/or Section 504 Coordinator. Location: Central Administration Building, 215 Main Street, Islip, New York 11751.