

# ICHABOD CRANE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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**Michael B. Vanyo**  
*Superintendent*

February 16, 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Earlier this week, there was another school tragedy in Parkland, Florida, where 17 students and teachers lost their lives during a school shooting. On behalf of the Ichabod Crane School District, we offer our deepest condolences to everyone affected by this horrible event. We also know that as parents, you trust us with your most valuable asset and expect that we will provide a safe learning environment for your children. Please note that the safety of our students, faculty and staff remains our top priority and I wanted to share some of the things we are doing to ensure this.

We have a School Resource Officer (SRO) from the Columbia County Sheriff's Department, who is on campus every school day. Officer VanAlstynne works with our administrators and buildings and grounds team to ensure that the exterior of each school building is safe by checking doors, windows, roads and other areas accessible on campus. He also works with students and teachers to ensure we have a safe environment in our hallways and classrooms in each school building. We have a District Safety Committee, each school has a Building Safety Committee and we also work closely with Questar III to have a Health and Safety Specialist in our district on a regular basis. Our faculty and staff have participated in professional development trainings that focus on proactive and reactive safety plans. We encourage our students to speak with an adult if they see something or hear something that could jeopardize the safety of others. We also appreciate the vigilance of our community to notify school administrators whenever they have a concern about the safety of our students at school.

We learned last evening, through the help of a community member, that there was a video on social media that had been altered and contained material that was concerning to the administration. We have been working with our School Resource Officer and the Sheriff's Department to investigate the origin and content of the altered video. The video was not sent directly to the Ichabod School District and there was no direct threat, but our school logo was used in the video and some of the content lead us to notify local law enforcement.

As a result of this ongoing investigation by the Sheriff's Department, we had an increased presence of officers on campus today as a precautionary measure. We continued classes in a normal fashion and there were no threats or incidents related to this video.

We will continue to work in conjunction with law enforcement to keep our school campus as safe as possible. Thanks to the training of our staff and the cooperation of students and parents, I am confident that your children will continue to have a safe and positive experience as a student at Ichabod Crane Central School District.

Sincerely,

*Michael B. Vanyo*  
Michael B. Vanyo