



Sean O'Halloran
Chief of Police

Tracy Handerhan
Superintendent of Schools

March 31, 2023

Dear Wall Township Public Schools Community:

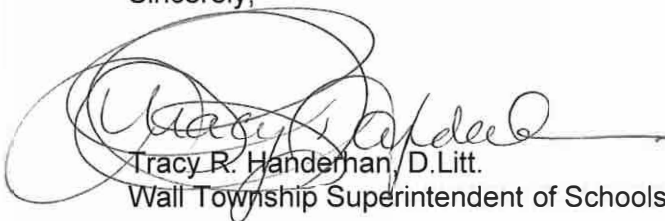
We find this letter difficult to write, largely because we have had to write it too many times. The tragedy that occurred this week at The Covenant School in Nashville, Tennessee has once again brought school-directed violence to the forefront of news media sources, our schools, and our homes. We are deeply saddened by this heartbreaking event and we hope the greater Nashville community finds renewed strength as they navigate the challenges before them.

We feel it is imperative to share with you that prioritizing school safety is not a responsive action to such tragedies. Securing our schools is a 365-24-7 responsibility. Without question, the well-being of our students and staff remains our utmost concern and top priority. The Wall Township Public Schools District and the Wall Township Police Department continually collaborate on taking active steps in implementing best practices in school security. While these best practices preclude us from sharing details of security plans, please know this collaboration includes the widespread presence of WTPS Security Officers and Wall Township Law Enforcement Officers in all of our schools, as well as extensive and continual training.

Acts of school violence evoke different responses in individuals. We remind families to please reach out to the respective school counselor or principal if you believe your child(ren) is/are in need of individual support. For guidance in discussing this difficult event with your child(ren), please visit this resource, [Talking to Children About Violence: Tips for Parents and Teachers](#), published by the *National Association of School Psychologists*.

During these difficult times, we are reminded of the importance of supporting one another and uniting as a community to ensure a continued safe school environment for our children and staff. The Wall Township Public Schools District and Wall Township Police Department are here to listen to any concerns you may have regarding school safety.

Sincerely,



Tracy R. Handerhan, D.Litt.
Wall Township Superintendent of Schools



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