



# Smithtown Central School District

26 New York Avenue, Smithtown, New York 11787

---

**Mark Secaur, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent of Schools  
(631) 382-2006

January 11, 2023

Dear Smithtown School Community,

I hope that you and your families had a wonderful holiday recess. It is a magical time of year and a great opportunity to reconnect with family and friends. As we ring in the new year, a year of great promise, I am asking for your continued assistance in helping us do all we can to have a safe, supportive learning environment for all of our students.

Sadly, in the last few weeks, the School District needed to investigate further instances of bias related graffiti as well as a number of alleged student threats to peers. As is always the case, we worked closely with the Suffolk County Police Department and investigated each incident immediately and thoroughly. As I have stated in the past, we have a moral and legal obligation to ensure that our school settings are inclusive and safe spaces for each and every student. It is codified in state law with the Dignity for All Students Act and via Board of Education Policies #0115 [Student Harassment, Discrimination and Bullying Prevention and Intervention](#) and #5300 [Code of Conduct](#).

Please know that the vast majority of our students behave appropriately and are a point of pride for our community. We also know that students make mistakes that are valuable learning experiences as they develop into mature adults. That said, the district must stand firm when individual students negatively impact their peers due to threats, bias, harassment or bullying and we will not condone these behaviors. With this in mind, we once again ask for your assistance in speaking with your children about the seriousness of such acts, as well as the potential for significant school based consequences and even criminal arrest. As this year's Board of Education goal states:

*"... all students must feel that they are welcome, they belong, and they are supported in every school, and success in this work will be built upon a foundation of respect, diversity, equity, inclusion, access and opportunity."*

By working together to address these important issues, we can help create the environment we all want for our children to thrive, and our hope for a bright future will be better realized.

Sincerely,

Mark Secaur, Ed.D.  
Superintendent