



Smithtown Central School District

26 New York Avenue, Smithtown, New York 11787

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

October 29, 2026

Dear Smithtown School Community,

Over the past 48 hours, many of you have reached out with questions, concerns, and understandable anxiety following the incident at High School West. Please know that your concerns are our concerns. We know families want clear answers and reassurance that their children are safe.

While there are legal and privacy limitations on what we can share regarding an individual student, we want to provide the facts we can. Here is what we can share:

- The student involved was never unaccompanied while on school grounds.
- School administrators, district security personnel, and the Suffolk County Police Department School Resource Officer discovered the contents of the student's backpack. The Suffolk County Police Department immediately took the student into custody and arrested him.
- Because the situation was identified, controlled, and resolved at that point, there was no active threat to students or staff, and emergency procedures such as a lockdown or lockout were not necessary.
- We have a zero tolerance policy for this type of behavior and severe consequences will be levied in accordance with the district's Code of Conduct. As this process plays out, the student will not be permitted on the grounds of High School West or any other district property and will be subject to arrest should that occur.

I want to reiterate that the safety and well-being of our students and staff remain our highest priority. Every decision we make is guided by our commitment to providing a safe, secure, and supportive learning environment.

This is why, over the past decade, the district's annual security budget has nearly doubled and included various physical security enhancements designed to protect our students and staff. These investments include controlled building access, security technology, and armed security personnel stationed outside district buildings. An overview of these enhancements can be accessed [HERE](#).

It is also important to note that our District-Wide Safety Team meets regularly to discuss the most up to date information regarding all facets of school security. Within this team are representatives from two of our most important partnerships, the **Suffolk County Police Department** and **Covert Investigations & Security**, Long Island's premier school security firm. We selected Covert for its specialized expertise in school safety and emergency preparedness. Their team includes experienced law enforcement and public safety professionals who work closely with district leadership to evaluate security procedures, identify potential vulnerabilities, strengthen emergency response plans, and recommend ongoing improvements.

Covert serves as a trusted advisor to the district on all aspects of school safety, helping us continuously assess and enhance our preparedness in an environment where threats and best practices are constantly evolving. Through regular collaboration, training, and planning, they help ensure the district takes a proactive, not reactive, approach to keeping students and staff safe.

Families can learn more about Covert and its approach to K-12 school security [HERE](#) and read our District-Wide Safety Plan [HERE](#).

As parents, you entrust us with your children each day, and we never take that responsibility lightly. We recognize that incidents like this are deeply unsettling and can leave families with lingering questions and concerns, even when a situation has been resolved safely. Those feelings are understandable. If you feel that your child needs special assistance and/or you feel that you need guidance with how to best approach this situation with your child, our counseling staff is available to provide support and assistance. Please feel free to contact your child's school should you desire this support. An additional resource provided by the National Association of School Psychologists, *Talking to Children About Violence: Tips for Parents and Teachers*, can be found [HERE](#).

While we are grateful that no students or staff were harmed, we know that our responsibility extends beyond responding to an incident. It includes continually evaluating our practices, strengthening our security measures, and doing everything within our power to provide a safe and secure learning environment.

We remain committed to learning from this incident, maintaining strong partnerships with our security and law enforcement professionals, and communicating openly with our school community. The safety and well-being of our students will continue to guide every decision we make.

Thank you for your continued partnership, trust, and support.

Sincerely,



Mark Secaur, Ed. D.
Superintendent