



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE BOROUGH OF BRENTWOOD

Administrative Offices

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Pittsburgh, PA 15227-3117
Phone: 412-881-2227
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Brentwood High School

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Phone: 412-881-4940
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Guidance Office

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Brentwood Middle School

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Special Education Office

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Elroy Elementary School

3129 Elroy Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15227-2824
Phone: 412-881-4484
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Moore Elementary School

3809 Dalewood Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15227-3509
Phone: 412-881-7776
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Athletic/Activity Director

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March 9, 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians:

The Brentwood Borough School Police and Administrative Team are sending this letter in hopes to assist with keeping our child(ren) safe, in and outside of the school district facilities. The weather forecast is expected to improve in the coming weeks, we encourage parents and guardians spend time discussing with child(ren) how to be safe while playing with friends in the community.

Below are a few topics to speak about with our child(ren):

- **Communication** is a main priority while our child(ren) play in the community. Express that it is imperative that you know their location and how to seek help in case of emergency. There are many apps and/or devices that can be utilized to track your child(ren) and their location. Please ensure they know where the police station is located and how to call 911 if needed.
- **Conflict Resolution** is a skill our children must practice. If they find themselves in a challenging or difficult situation while playing in the community talk through ways to de-escalate the situation and/or practice ways to remove themselves from the situation. Talking about it later with an adult will assist in reassuring your child(ren) that they made the right decision.
- **Situational Awareness**-Being approached by a "stranger" can happen anywhere. Please ensure your child(ren) are aware of how to react when approached by someone they do not know while out in the community.
- **Look-a-like guns and weapons**-School District Police and Borough Police have received reports of school aged children utilizing a new popular toy, known as "Gel Blaster" guns or "Orbeez" guns. This toy gun is comparable to an air soft or BB gun. These devices shoot a gel ball at a high rate of speed and can at times resemble a real firearm. Many police departments across the country have been receiving calls related to these toys and them being mistaken for real firearms by concerned citizens. With the current state of the country, any device that resembles a firearm may jeopardize the safety of our children, community, or law enforcement. If your child(ren) has any of these toys or have friends that have these toys, please take some time to ensure they are being responsible and safe while engaging in activities outside of school. Please note that if your child(ren) does have one of these devices, they are not permitted to be brought to any school facility or on school owned property at any time. These devices will be confiscated, and disciplinary actions will be taken.

We encourage students to play outside and get involved in activities outside of school. The common saying is *an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure*. Please continue to engage your children in safety conversations **before** incidents arise. If you have any questions or concerns, please call my office at 412-881-2227 x.2301.

Sincerely,

Jeremy R. Bogdanski
Director of School Police and Security