



## PENN MANOR SCHOOL DISTRICT

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**Michael G. Leichliter, Ed.D.**  
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December 17, 2012

Dear Parents,

I, like the rest of our community, am deeply saddened by the tragic events on Friday at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut. The senseless tragedy is particularly difficult during this time of year when many of our hearts and homes are filled with celebration. Recognizing that parents and children in our community may have conflicting feelings as well as questions regarding school district procedures and available resources for families, I share the following thoughts.

First, it is important for you to know that Penn Manor continues to review and revise procedures to make our schools a safe place for children to learn. All of our school buildings have a security plan and safety procedures that are regularly practiced and reviewed with students and staff. While it is clear that there are no absolute guarantees for safety, we continue to improve security procedures, practice emergency responses, and learn from tragic instances.

Penn Manor has participated in a number of federal, state, and local grants and programs during recent years to improve our ability to provide a safe environment for students and staff. As an example, several counselors and administrators from our district have received training from national crisis expert Cheri Lovre, the director of the Crisis Management Institute. She has worked with schools and communities that have experienced similar tragedies and offers excellent guidelines for talking with children about the recent school shooting. We have posted these guidelines along with other resources on our school district website at <http://www.pennmanor.net>. I trust that you will find these resources helpful at this difficult time. If you do not have access to the internet, please feel free to contact your child's school and we will provide copies for you.

Additionally, if your child is upset or has questions, please encourage him/her to speak with their teacher or school counselor. We have school counselors, social workers, and psychologists in our schools to help. Additionally, this incident reminds all of us to be vigilant and to immediately report to local law enforcement any suspicious activity in and around our community and school buildings.

As an educator and parent of three Penn Manor students, this incident serves as a reminder to me of the important work of our schools in this community. We will all continue to work diligently to help our children cope with this tragedy. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Michael G. Leichliter, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

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