



Coatesville Area School District

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3030 C.G. Zinn Rd. Thorndale, PA 19372 | casdschools.org | 610-466-2400

September 4, 2023

Dear Coatesville Area School District Staff and Families,

I am writing to address a matter of concern that has been at the forefront of our minds since last Thursday—the recent escape of an inmate from Chester County Prison. I want to assure you that the safety and well-being of our community is our utmost priority. We are taking all necessary steps to ensure your security.

After extensive discussions with the Pennsylvania State Police, Chester County District Attorney's Office, and Chester County Emergency Services, we have received valuable information regarding the situation. Thankfully, there is no reason to believe that the fugitive poses a specific threat to our schools or students. The ongoing search efforts have been concentrated in the Pocopson Township area.

In light of the information provided by law enforcement agencies, we are following their recommendation to continue our regular operations without interruption to schools. Therefore, CASD schools/programs will remain open, transportation will continue as regularly scheduled, and all outside and after school activities will take place. The CCIU and all other Chester County school districts will be open as well.

That said, it is important for all members of our community to stay informed about the situation. To receive the most up-to-date information, we strongly encourage you to register for Chester County alerts at www.readychesco.org. This will ensure that you are promptly informed of any developments related to the situation.

Please be assured that in the event of any significant updates or changes in the situation, we will communicate with our staff and families to ensure everyone's safety and well-being. We understand that situations like these can be unsettling. The safety and security of our CASD community remains our top priority. We are committed to taking all necessary precautions and measures to ensure safety on our premises.

If you have any specific concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's school. Counselors will be available as always to provide support. We will keep you updated as the situation evolves. If we are notified that any changes need to take place due to the course of the search, we will implement appropriate measures and notify you as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Dr. Catherine Van Vooren
Superintendent
Coatesville Area School District

Superintendent: Dr. Catherine Van Vooren