



BAYONNE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Office of the Superintendent
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Superintendent

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April 29, 2024

Dear Bayonne Community,

Today, at approximately 10AM, William Shemin Midtown Community School was placed in a shelter in place for police activity outside the area of the school. We have come to learn from the police investigation of the incident that it was a result of a swatting incident.

What is swatting?

According to the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)

(<https://archives.fbi.gov/archives/news/stories/2008/february/swatting020408>)

“Today, there’s a new, much more serious twist on this old crime. It’s called “swatting,” and it involves calling 9-1-1 and faking an emergency that draws a response from law enforcement—usually a SWAT team.”

Again, there is no threat to our school at this time and as a precaution the Bayonne Police Department checked the area for any suspicious persons or packages. As always, any threat is taken seriously and we are confident the perpetrators of this hoax will be caught by law enforcement.

We thank Police Chief Geisler and the Bayonne Police Department for a rapid response and a quick resolution to this incident. As always, the safety and security of our students and staff are our highest priority. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Principal Mr. James Pondillo.

Sincerely,

John J. Niesz
Superintendent