

BLACK HORSE PIKE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

580 Erial Road, Blackwood, New Jersey 08012-4550 (856) 227-4106 • Fax (856) 227-6835

www.bhprsd.org

Where inspiring excellence is our standard and student achievement is the result Dr. Brian Repici

Superintendent



Frank Rizzo Board Secretary, Business Administrator Julie A. Scully Assistant Superintendent

October 14, 2022

Dear Caregivers and Students:

Last school year, a 12-year-old student attending Gloucester Township Elementary School collapsed on a school bus as it arrived at the school due to unintended exposure to fentanyl. Fentanyl, a synthetic opioid, over 50-100 times more powerful than morphine, is being cut into other legal and illegal drugs, which some of our community members, students, and families, may be intentionally or unintentionally exposed to and have a severely adverse effect, including death. Essentially, it is a poison.



Naloxone boxes will house the opioid antidote nasal spray Naloxone Hydrochloride (Narcan) and be installed at all three high schools and the C.A.R.E. program at Camden County College.



Currently, Narcan can be administered by the School Resource Officers and the School Nurses who are trained to administer it.

In the near future, we will partner with the Camden County Addiction Task Force, to offer voluntary training to all faculty and staff. The use of Narcan on someone does not have any negative side effects, even if they are unconscious as a result of a non-opioid-related reason. Additionally, anyone who is trained and administers Narcan is held harmless under the law.

Education, by its very nature, is about advancing mental health. We must do our best to educate students about the ills of substance abuse and also be prepared to handle all aspects of addiction and any potential intentional or unintentional exposure to fentanyl.

Therefore, we see the partnership with the Camden County Police Chiefs Association, the Camden County Prosecutor's Office, and the Camden County Addiction Task Force as a path to better be prepared if anyone has

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Mrs. Melissa Sheppard, Principal

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Mr. Ryan C. Varga, Principal



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Mrs. Kelly A. McKenzie, Principal

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an adverse reaction to fentanyl in or on our school grounds. Just having Narcan be more accessible and available could save a life.

I would like to thank the Highland faculty, staff, and students who helped make today's press conference possible.



If you would like to see news media coverage related to the press conference and this initiative, you are welcome to view it <u>here</u>.

Other articles related to the press conference held at Highland yesterday can be viewed below.

<u>Philadelphia Inquirer</u> <u>Gloucester Township Patch</u> <u>CBS Philadelphia media release</u> KYW News Radio

Sincerely,

Dr. B. Repici Superintendent of Schools.

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