



MURRY BERGTRAUM HIGH SCHOOL
FOR BUSINESS CAREERS
BARBARA A. ESMILLA, PRINCIPAL

September 2009

Dear Parents:

We are committed to provide a safe, secure learning environment for all students in our school. The New York City Police Department has assisted us in achieving this goal and in implementing a coordinated approach to school safety. As part of the safety initiative for New York City Schools, Mayor Bloomberg has announced that on some days students will be asked to go through metal scanning machines like the kind used to screen airline passengers for the purpose of detecting weapons. These scanning devices, deployed by the New York City Police Department, will identify not only weapons but other objects that are never permitted in our building and will help us to keep everyone safe in our school.

As you know, there are items that students are prohibited from bringing to school. These items are listed in the Citywide Standards of Discipline and in Chancellor's Regulation A-412. These include blades, knives, other sharp metal instruments, cell phones, beepers, iPods, MP3 players, etc. Students who bring these items to school are subject to disciplinary measures. Procedures for use of scanning devices in our schools are contained in Chancellor's Regulation A-432 on Search and Seizure. Both Regulations are available on the Department of Education's Website <http://www.nycenet.edu/Administration/ChancellorsRegulations/default.htm>. You can also request a copy from my office.

The scanning machines will not be at our school every day, but students must be prepared every day to successfully pass through scanners. Students must have their school photo I.D. and/or program card ready and visible before entering the building. Student backpacks, as well as all metal objects (keys, belts, coins, jewelry, etc), will go through the scanner. So if students place all metal objects in their backpack before reaching the scanner this will help the line to move quickly. Students who are not properly prepared for scanning may be required to go through a second, hand-held scan that will delay their arrival in to their first class.

I hope that students will be attentive and follow instructions from all School Safety Agents and be sensitive to other students waiting to be scanned to enter the building. We will be reviewing details of the scanning process with your child in school this week. I need your support in making this new safety measure successful. Please discuss this new safety procedure with your child. They must leave prohibited items at home, go quickly through scanning, and enter the building on time in the morning. I know that your child's safety is your number one concern. We are doing everything possible to ensure that all students have a safe learning environment in which they can achieve their full potential.

These days we often hear that added security measures are "a sign of the times." In our school, however, I see this additional security resource as a sign that placing students and staff in a potentially unsafe situation is unacceptable. We must all commit to ensuring the safety of everyone in our community.

If you have questions regarding the policies and procedures on scanning, please don't hesitate to call us.

I thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,

Barbara A. Esmilla
Principal