



# UNION COUNTY VOCATIONAL - TECHNICAL SCHOOLS

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*Mr. Peter A. Capodice*  
*Superintendent of Schools*

February 4, 2014

Message from the Superintendent:

I wanted to take a moment to update you on some important changes taking place on our campus. As a district our message has been clear; our goal is to provide each of our students with a clean, safe, academically challenging learning environment. In this regard, the Board of Education, upon my recommendation, has taken steps to improve the safety of our students, staff and visitors.

At the January 27, 2014 Board of Education meeting, the Board approved a proposal to place uniformed, unarmed Safety Officers at the main entrance of each building on campus. This measure does not replace our existing agreement with the Scotch Plains Police Department; it supplements that agreement.

If you visited our schools in the past, you may have noticed the main entranceways were usually staffed with teachers, substitutes and on many occasions, our supervisors or building principals. This is obviously not an effective use of our resources. Effective February 4<sup>th</sup>, the training of these Safety Officers will begin and they will be, from this point forward, monitoring all those who enter and exit our buildings, while also controlling new procedures for visitors.

In addition to the uniformed Safety Officer at each entrance, you will notice other changes when you visit any of our buildings. The Safety Officer will ask to see your driver's license and record your name, date and time of visit, driver's license number, and phone number. If you are visiting our campus to pick up your child or any other purpose, please make sure to bring your Driver's License or other valid photo ID into the building with you. Please communicate these procedures to family representatives who may also be picking up your child. I understand that this additional procedure may be a slight inconvenience to families; however, I feel it necessary in securing our campus to the best of our ability. Police officials and security consultants all agree that this practice will serve as yet another deterrent to someone potentially thinking about doing harm to anyone on our campus.

I am excited about these additions and changes to our campus security. They allow our building principals to use their professional staff more effectively, keep our supervisors and principals free to better manage their buildings and help to make everyone on our campus safer.

I greatly appreciate your cooperation in following these new procedures. Please be assured that I continue to be committed to outstanding educational programs at UCVTS and also to the safety of everyone on campus.

Sincerely,

Peter A. Capodice  
Superintendent of Schools  
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