



Education for today..... and tomorrow

F A R M I N G D A L E P U B L I C S C H O O L S

NORTHSIDE SCHOOL

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ELIZABETH L. GARAVUSO
Principal

JOHN LORENTZ
Superintendent of Schools

DIANE P. ANDERSON
Assistant Principal

January 3, 2007

Dear Parents,

The purpose of this letter is to indicate that I can no longer permit students to return to the building for forgotten homework items.

Prior to the Holiday break, there were two incidents of vandals entering the building. The vandals entered the building, went into open classrooms, and stole items, as well as ransacked the spaces. Both incidents were reported to the police, although it seems unlikely that the criminals will be found. These incidents led me to respond by locking all classrooms after school.

The school is staffed by 3 custodians and one part timer in the evening, who have considerable spaces to clean each night. In addition, the evening head custodian needs to monitor the spaces that are open to visitors; many school spaces are open to outside groups each night. The gym doors are opened when the gym is in use. The front doors are open when other spaces are in use. Other than that the front doors are locked. Because the building is used all night, I can't lock the doors, but I can lock the many classrooms that aren't used.

In the past, the classrooms were left open. When the front door was open and classrooms were unlocked for cleaning, it was easy for people to enter the building and retrieve forgotten homework without anyone's assistance.

Now that the classrooms are locked, retrieving homework requires a custodian to stop what he/she is doing, walk to and unlock a classroom door, monitor the homework retrieval, lock the door and monitor the exiting of the homework retrievers. Unfortunately, I can't permit this to take place, because I need every moment of the custodian's time to be spent cleaning.

As of today, no one will be permitted to enter a locked classroom to retrieve homework. Please do not ask the custodians as they have been instructed to refuse the requests. I thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Garavuso, Principal