

BUY
PHOTO
REPRINTS
ONLINE



Many Hands
NEW ENGLAND'S MAGAZINE FOR HOLISTIC HEALTH

SERVICES DIRECTORY
HOLISTIC NEWS AND REVIEWS
COMMUNITY CALENDAR
ALTERNATIVE CLASSIFIEDS

SUBSCRIBE TO
THE GAZETTE
ONLINE
OR IN PRINT

GAZETTENET.com

Amherst Bulletin

The Recorder

Valley Advocate

Pioneer Valley

Many Hands

Hampshire Life

Sign out

Account

Trouble finding something?

Contact us

Classifieds

Daily Hampshire Gazette - Established 1786

news search

Local News | State/Region | U.S./World | Obituaries | Sports | Business | Schools | Colleges | Politics | Opinion | Entertainment | Health | Living | Sci/Tech

In place: buzzers, cameras, drills

By **CATHERINE BAUM**
Staff Writer

Email this page | Printer-friendly version

Wednesday, September 3, 2008

Local schools have a number of security measures already in place, with some planning to add more this year. Here is a look at the steps area school and city officials have taken so far:

Northampton: The four elementary schools and middle school had main entrance security buzzers to access the buildings installed about a year ago, according to David Pomerantz, director of central services.

The high school does not have an entrance buzzer, but uses a sign-in and sign-out system in the main office because many students leave and return during the school day for classes at Smith College and because of extracurricular activities, Pomerantz said.

He noted that NHS Principal Nancy Athas will likely discuss with the city the idea of adding a buzzer, and this school year the district will use ConnectEd, an automated telephone system that notifies parents in the case of emergencies. Pomerantz, fire and police representatives and health services director Karen Jarvis-Vance attended a MEMA workshop regarding school security over the summer. All schools have fire, lockdown and evacuation and relocation drills, according to Jarvis-Vance, and the elementary schools have a school resource officer.

Hampshire Regional: All schools have entrance buzzers and fire, lockdown and shelter-in-place drills. The Southampton elementary school and HRHS have evacuation and relocation drills and the ConnectEd system to communicate with parents. Health education coordinator Mary Phelan and Hampshire Regional High School's assistant principal, Maureen Porter-Ecclestone, are certified in emergency-response training.

HRHS technology director Kimberly Florek said she is looking into mass text messaging to alert students and parents in the event of a crisis. At the Norris School in Southampton, color-coded books are at every classroom exit with instructions for each school employee to follow under various emergency situations.

Easthampton: All doors are locked and video cameras are placed above main entrances, where visitors must be granted access to via entrance buzzers, according to John Schott, who coordinates security for the district. ConnectEd is used to contact parents during emergencies. Fire, lockdown, school and bus evacuation drills are held throughout the school year. The schools have a school resource officer as well.

Belchertown: Superintendent of Schools Richard Pazasis said he and the School Committee will be looking to beef up security by adding cameras in the hallway alongside the gym and outside in parking lots later this year.

Upgrading the capacity of memory storage is also being considered, he said, but the changes depend on available funds. For several years, the locking of school doors has been at the discretion of the building principal. Cold Spring School and Jabish Brook Middle School are locked during school hours and visitors must be granted admittance. Swift River Elementary School, Chestnut Hill Community School and BHS have one unlocked door each that have remote cameras that can be monitored, as do all the schools.



Popular stories

- [Obama chooses chief of staff; Kerry as Secretary of State?](#)
- [Tune-up gives UMass basketball fans first look](#)
- [Two hurt, one charged in crash](#)
- [Area Police News](#)
- [State tax change defeated; marijuana, dog racing measures pass](#)

Gazette Newspaper Ads

[View all ads gallery](#)

ADVERTISERS

The Daily Hampshire Gazette will publish a special tabloid edition on **December 4, 2008** to celebrate the **GRAND OPENING** of the all-new **State Street DHI FRUIT STORE WINES & SPIRITS**

AD DEADLINE: November 13
Show your support ... reserve your ad today! Call **Jenny Pelissier** at **585-5284** or your Gazette representative at **584-5000**.

GAZETTE

[Click to enlarge](#)

South Hadley: Improvements were made to school security systems last year, said Superintendent Gus Sayer, when security cameras were installed inside and outside the high school, cameras outside Michael E. Smith Middle School were upgraded and buzzer controls installed at all four schools. All four schools are locked during the school day and visitors must be buzzed in.

Granby: Security upgrades were made several years ago. All three schools are locked, with buzzers and cameras at each door.

Amherst Regional: Former Superintendent Jere I. Hochman introduced the PRISM model for thinking about school security. Administrators developed crisis-response teams and checklists for security. Schools have ConnectEd, a telephone automation system used to communicate with parents during times of crisis. Fire, lockdown and shelter-in-place drills are also held at the schools. Security cameras were installed at the middle and high schools over the summer, according to the superintendent's office.

Gazette writers Mary Carey and Stephen Hill contributed to this story.

Filed Under: [local](#) [schools](#) [security](#)

Comments

Post new comment

Your name:

[Catherine Baum](#)

Subject:

Comment: *

Input format

Filtered HTML

- Web page addresses and e-mail addresses turn into links automatically.
 - Allowed HTML tags: <a> <i> <code> <cite> <div>
- Lines and paragraphs break automatically.

Full HTML

- Web page addresses and e-mail addresses turn into links automatically.
- Lines and paragraphs break automatically.

[More information about formatting options](#)



USA's FREE Local Classifieds Site

[NYC](#)
[Boston](#)
[Bay Area](#)

[Atlanta](#)
[Chicago](#)
[Detroit](#)

[Seattle](#)
[Miami](#)
[And more..](#)

Always Free

Visit your Kijiji City



[Local News](#) | [State/Region](#) | [U.S./World](#) | [Obituaries](#) | [Sports](#) | [Business](#) | [Schools](#) | [Colleges](#) | [Politics](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Health](#) | [Living](#) | [Sci/Tech](#) | [Blogs](#)

[Copyright Notice](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of Use](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Help Center](#) | [FAQ](#) | [Subscribe to the Gazette](#) | [Advertising](#)

Daily Hampshire Gazette © 2008 All rights reserved