



# Hastings-on-Hudson Public Schools

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*A National Blue Ribbon District of Excellence*

**Valerie J. Henning-Piedmonte, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent of Schools

**Melissa I. Szymanski**  
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

**Maureen Caraballo**  
Business Official & Treasurer

September 16, 2020

Dear Hillside Families,

It was reported to us that several students gained access to a Google Hangouts group that some of our Hastings elementary students had created using their district accounts. One or more of the children who gained access to the group engaged in concerning interactions with the members of the group, including renaming their group without permission and using threatening language.

Please note that this incident is currently under investigation and will be addressed by our Hillside administrators in accordance with the Code of Conduct and Dignity for All Students Act.

Consistent with past practice, the Google Hangouts feature has been disabled. District accounts should only be used for academic, social, and emotional experiences designed by the faculty. Should children wish to create Google Hangouts to chat with their friends, they can use personal accounts for this purpose.

Thank you for your continued understanding and support as we help our growing learners to strengthen their peer interactions and appropriate use of technology.

Best regards,

Melissa Szymanski, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

Amy Cazes, Principal

John DeKams, Assistant Principal