



Jefferson Township High School

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Principal
Mr. Kevin Lipton

Assistant Principals
Mr. Michael Lonie
Dr. Andrea Padelsky

June 11, 2024

For more than thirty years the Jefferson Township community has come together to give an important and realistic message to our students. The message today, using the words of JTPD Sergeant McCarthy, is to “make memories, not memorials.”

I cannot begin to truly express the sense of pride and gratitude that I have to be part of this community. For most of the past twenty-five years, I have been both a resident and school administrator. Most recently, I am the very proud Principal of Jefferson Township High School.

The message of making good decisions while driving resonates very deeply within me. In my thirty-two years as an educator, I have lost several students due to them making poor driving decisions. Moreover, twenty years ago, one of my wife’s childhood friends lost her sixteen-year-old daughter due to that daughter’s friend’s mother driving northbound on the southbound side of the Taconic Parkway in New York while intoxicated.

We all have busy lives and most of us have limited resources due to budgets. We all could have been spending a beautiful June morning in a lot of other ways. I thank all of you for finding the time, resources, and personnel to assist us in delivering this important message to our students. Like all of you, I am hoping that our children have happy memories through prom and graduation and live long, happy, healthy lives without knowing preventable tragedy.

Please express my appreciation to everyone in your departments and businesses that assisted.

Specifically, but not in any particular order, I would like to thank:

Superintendent Jeanne Howe
Assistant Superintendent Roger Jinks
The Jefferson Township Board of Education
Mayor Wilsusen and The Mayor’s Office
Mrs. Millikin and The Town Council
Chief Castimore and The Jefferson Township Police Department
Chiefs Parete, Cabrera, Jenkins, and Finnegan and The Jefferson Township Fire and Rescue Squads
Deputy Coordinator Perrier and Deputy OEM Manager Mangold and The Office of Emergency Management
Ms. Peggy Widgren and the faculty and staff of JTMS for assisting with our students’ arrival through their school today

Home of the Falcons



Mr. James Lutz and The Jefferson Township Department of Public Works
Mike Scovili and Atlantic Health
Mike Franek and Sars Auto Wreckers

All of the people who planned the activity and/or acted in the video and live production and/or produced and edited the video and live activity:

Sergeant McCarthy
Officer Fabian
Fire Official Corsaro
Mrs. Lyndsay Vesia, JTHS SAC
Mr. Al Kazanfer, JTHS Video Production Teacher
Mr. Chad Flynn, JTHS Chorus Teacher and Sound Engineer
Ms. Cassie Ives, JTHS Teacher for the donation of the flowers

Actors:

Stephanie Ragrag
Olivia Metro
Georgia Oberman
Brooke Kuba
Jack Orlando
Sam Orlando
Tim Connolly
Andrew Parisi
Mrs. Orlando

Audio:

Sebastian Igielski
CJ Karamanol
Nick Roberts
Nick DePalma

Video Crew:

Ben Pendolino
Olivia Gugliotta
Chris Filippelli
Sebastian Mey
Jordan Katz
Kali Grlica
Madison Mathews
Mikayla Espostio
Pat Bubniak
Rin Polhamus

Students in Fire/First Aid Squads:

Matthew Cruz
Steven Cruz
Hunter Grabowski
Jocelyn Sawicki

An additional very special thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Parisi for being willing and having the strength (I am not sure I would have) to come to school to identify their son who was playing the deceased.

Thank you to the faculty and staff of the high school for altering the day (parking, lessons, etc).

Thank you to our juniors and seniors. I received multiple compliments on your behavior and politeness during this assembly. I also thank the seniors for their flexibility in parking at Snowbowl today.

To anyone that was part of this activity and not listed, please know that it was inadvertent, I apologize, and you are thanked as well.

Sincerely,

Mr. Kevin Lipton