



# Rochelle Park School District

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August 1, 2022

Dear School Community Members,

I hope you are having a most enjoyable summer! This mid-summer update brings exciting news of two very special announcements.

Midland School will have a School Resource Officer (SRO) starting this September! The Board of Education and the Township Committee have collaborated and set forth an inter-local agreement to bring this service to the community. Chief Pinto of the Rochelle Park Police Department and I have worked closely to plan for this new role. Together, along with the Board of Education and Administration, and the Police Department and Township, we welcome Sergeant Christopher Bermudez to the position of School Resource Officer. Sgt. Bermudez, “Officer Chris”, is well known to the students and staff in part from his many years of service as a Juvenile Officer within the community and L.E.A.D. Instructor at Midland School. We all look forward to his service for the added measures of prevention, safety, and security he will bring to the school community. Please join me in welcoming our School Resource Officer, Sgt. Bermudez.

Midland School will soon have a new playground and parking lot! The safety and security of our students, families, and staff will be enhanced by these new developments. The children will also benefit from the new play area for physical education, recess, and general personal recreation time. These new plans include constructing two basketball courts and a sheltered pavilion on the existing playground side of the building. The current playground structure will remain in place. The basketball courts will include four square and pickleball play areas. The sheltered pavilion will accommodate tables with benches for outdoor learning space and recess.

Plans for the new parking lot were developed through collaboration between the Board of Education and Rochelle Park Police Department after traffic studies were conducted. The current basketball space will be converted into parking space. This will include designated spaces and walking pathways for parents/guardians who want to “park and walk” their children to and from the building. The car entrance and exit to the parking lot will also be changed, reversing the current route. The new car drop off pathway will be lengthened, serving to reduce the current rush of the short drop off zone and the back-up of traffic on Rochelle Avenue. This new driving drop off route and parking zone will be studied for the year and may be revised as needed for longer term plans.

The drawings for the new playground and parking lot will be on display at the school starting August 2, 2022. They are also available on the district website at [www.rochellepark.org](http://www.rochellepark.org). Final traffic, parking and drop off information will be sent to families prior to the start of the new school year.

We look forward to bringing you these new developments. Enjoy the rest of your summer.

Sincerely,  
*Dr. Sue DeNobile*, Superintendent