



# ARLINGTON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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November 8, 2019

Dear Parents, Guardians, Faculty and Staff,

On Thursday, November 7, Vail Farm Elementary School parents reported that between 8:15am and 8:30am, a van in the area of Reilly Road, Bowe Lane, Rosell Court and Harden Drive stopped at a bus stop and the driver talked to children at the stop. The driver is described as middle-aged, approximately 50 years of age, wearing a knit hat, brown or black hair with some gray, and full/round face. Witnesses state they believe the same van with the same driver was in the neighborhood during the evening of Halloween and the following day.

When school administrators learned about this incident, they immediately called the School Resource Officer (SRO). The Dutchess County Sheriff's office has issued a bulletin to other police agencies describing the van and the driver. The DC Sheriff's Office is investigating and continuing to monitor the situation. Please contact the Dutchess County Sheriff's office at 486-3800 if you have any information about this vehicle.

We remind parents to reinforce with your children these basic safety measures:

- Don't talk to strangers.
- Don't go anywhere with someone you don't know.
- If a stranger approaches you, seek help immediately.
- Trust your instincts, if you feel you are being followed or something is not right, seek help immediately.
- Use the buddy system. Avoid walking anywhere alone.
- Review contact telephone numbers and home safety practices.
- If a stranger grabs you, do everything you can to stop him or her from pulling you away. Drop to the ground, kick, hit, bite, and scream. Do whatever it takes to attract the attention of others who can help you. If someone is dragging you away, scream, "this is not my dad," or "this is not my mom."
- Report any suspicious activity to your school and police department.

We will continue to work with our School Resource Officer and the Sheriff's Office regarding this matter.

Should you have any tips, please contact Detective Slattery of the Dutchess Sheriff's department at [sslattery@dutchessny.gov](mailto:sslattery@dutchessny.gov)

Sincerely,

Jonathan Alfred Brown, Ed.D.

*Our mission is to empower all students to be self-directed, lifelong learners, who willingly contribute to their community and lead passionate, purposeful lives.*

*In Arlington, learning is: inclusive, dynamic, and engaging.*