



December 20, 2018

Dear Horseheads High School Parents and Guardians:

I am writing to you about a situation at the High School. We recently learned of an alleged threat to our students and/or school. Upon learning of this, our administration and school resource officer began an immediate investigation, speaking with students and handing out discipline. Through their investigation, law enforcement deemed the threat not credible, but we took it seriously. Recently, a related incident occurred, and again, we began an immediate investigation. We involved all appropriate staff and spoke to any student we knew was involved, and/or who knew of the situation. Today, law enforcement officials are finishing up their investigation, and they again believe there is no credibility to the threat. Please be assured that the responsible individual is known and the situation is being addressed.

Please know that we take any threat to our students or school very seriously. Safety and security are our highest priorities, and we will never take these topics lightly. Tomorrow, out of an abundance of caution, our school resource officer and additional officers from the Village of Horseheads will be on site at the school. Please be assured that the law enforcement presence does not indicate that there is a situation – it indicates that our local law enforcement agencies join us in our commitment to protect our students' safety, no matter what the issue.

We ask that you talk to your students about the importance of telling an adult if he or she hears something or is concerned about safety. We ask that you contact the school or my office to report concerns. Our Safe Schools Line is available seven days a week, 24 hours a day at (607) 795-2044 or 1-800-305-4984. If you call the Safe Schools Line, we ask that you be as detailed as possible in your report and consider leaving your contact information so that appropriate personnel can follow up with your concerns.

The safety and education of our children are our highest priorities. While we cannot share details of an issue, we take all concerns about safety seriously. Anyone who threatens our students or schools will be dealt with appropriately. Additionally, please know that deeming something as not credible does not mean law enforcement and administration are brushing the issue aside. A full investigation began immediately upon the initial report, and again when we received a subsequent report.

We thank you for your continued concern for our children and our schools. We also thank those individuals who were willing to come forward and share what they've heard, as it takes everyone to work together to keep our schools safe. I hope this assists in your understanding of the matter at hand. Please contact High School Principal Karen Donahue at (607) 795-2500 or kdonahue@horseheadsdistrict.com, or my office if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

Dr. Thomas J. Douglas, Superintendent of Schools