



St. Joseph County Residents:

As Superintendents of the nine local school districts in St. Joseph County, we would like to share with you information about our top priority--the safety and security of our students, staff, and school districts.

Although we are from different school districts and communities, we have much in common when it comes to this particular topic. No matter what community you belong to, it is a bond we all share.

Here are a few points we'd like to highlight:

- Sadly, threats to schools are occurring throughout the state and country. In many cases, these threats start through social media. Some threats made on social media are then shared from one community to another, creating and spreading fear and anxiety. We encourage our school communities to notify school officials of any social media post that potentially puts our schools at risk. At the same time, we ask that you *not* continue the trend of sharing or reposting. By doing so, without having knowledge or background information about the post, it creates an environment of misinformation that is unnecessary and disruptive to the learning environment.
- Our districts have building security and protocols in place. We strive to communicate information to families about safety-related situations as quickly as possible. Every school district is legally bound on what it can/cannot share. As districts work through the investigative process into these matters, we provide as much information to our families as legally possible.
- We work collaboratively and directly with law enforcement when situations arise concerning the safety and security of our students. We also partner with appropriate agencies to help support students & staff when needed.
- Each district follows its specific student handbook regarding the consequences and outcomes of anyone involved with making a threat to our schools. Law enforcement is responsible for holding those accountable who violate state and local laws.

Finally, we ask for your help and support by keeping a watchful eye on your child's social media, reporting concerns directly to district officials, and having conversations with your child about the seriousness, jokingly or otherwise, of threatening the safety and security of our schools. Together we can better support our top priority--the safety and security of every school district within St. Joseph County.

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