



SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY SCHOOLS

Post Office Box 96 · Courtland, Virginia 23837
Phone (757) 653-2692 · Fax (757) 653-9422

Dr. Gwendolyn P. Shannon, Division Superintendent

Dr. Deborah Goodwyn, Chair
James D. Pope, III, Vice-Chair

Concerns and Warnings about a Perceived Threat on TikTok for December 17, 2021

December 16, 2021

Dear Students, Staff, Parents, and Community Members:

This evening, I was made aware of concerns and warnings about a perceived threat on TikTok that appears to be circulating throughout the nation. Although the perceived threat did not appear to originate in our locality, it has been discussed within our schools and community. While the perceived threat does not name a particular school, the TikTok post stated that the threat is "for every school in the USA, even elementary," on Friday, December 17th.

We request that parents talk with their children about the appropriate use of social media and monitor their children's social media accounts. Further, we ask parents to speak with their children about the consequences of participating in or circulating threatening or perceived threatening social media posts. Lastly, we ask parents to assist us in emphasizing and reiterating to their children the seriousness of making or spreading threats.

No one is accusing any of our students of being associated with this perceived threat, nevertheless, we want to be proactive regarding social media use and threats or perceived threats in any format.

Parents, please ensure that your children know that making or disseminating threats is no laughing or joking matter. If a child makes or disseminates a threat, consequences from the school and possibly law enforcement will follow such actions.

Our local Southampton County Sheriff's Office is aware of the perceived threat and conversations about the perceived threat on TikTok. Thus far, the perceived threats have been deemed unfounded, non-credible, and unsubstantiated.

Since the perceived threat was not specifically made toward our schools, at this juncture, the schools will be open tomorrow. Moreover, we will have increased police presence in our schools, tomorrow, for added safety and security.

As always, the safety of our students, teachers, school, and community is paramount. Therefore, if a parent feels compelled to keep their children home tomorrow, we ask that you notify your children's school and make the best decision for you and your family. We will be flexible with parents and students while addressing this matter. Furthermore, we will remain vigilant in doing all within our power to keep students and staff out of harm's way. Our belief remains, "See Something, Say Something."

Thanks for the cooperation of you and your child during this matter.

Safety first,

Dr. Gwendolyn P. Shannon
Division Superintendent
757-653-4464 cellular

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