



Flushing Community Schools

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Matthew C. Shanafelt, Deputy Superintendent

October 4, 2016

Dear Flushing Parents/Families:

As you may have seen on both local and national news in the last couple of days, a number of communities across the country are dealing with rumors circulating on social media that are related to “clowns” making vague threats to students and/or school communities. We have been made aware of one incident involving a Flushing student, and while the threat was not found to be credible, we are continuing to work with the Flushing Township Police Department to investigate it thoroughly. We have received calls from a handful of concerned parents throughout the day as false rumors of lockdowns or threats spread. I can assure you that student safety is our first priority, and that there has not been any reason to have our buildings in lockdown today.

We ask that you please take this opportunity to continue to talk to your children about responsible use of technology and social media. Our concern is that some students may be tempted to contribute to the panic in one way or another, thinking that it is a simple joke, without thinking through the serious consequences of their actions. In all instances, these false rumors or vague threats made under the anonymity of a clown mask and a made-up screen name, take valuable resources from our local police departments and school communities. In many cases reported throughout the country, students perpetuating these threats have been arrested and charged quite extensively with felonies.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your continued support. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact your building principal.

Sincerely,

Matthew C. Shanafelt
Deputy Superintendent

“Preparing learners today for opportunities tomorrow.”