December 20, 2019

Dear Parents and Community,

In today’s era of Social Media and people using that as a stage to make threats, we at Crestwood School District feel it is necessary to share with you how we handle, assess, and respond to all threats. To us at Crestwood, we do not take any threat lightly or weigh any threat more important than another. Our protocol is simple but effective and includes the Board of Education, Central Office Administration, Dearborn Heights Police Department, and our Crestwood Families and Community.

First once a threat is made, Central Office, the Board of Education, and Dearborn Heights Police are notified by the school administration.

Second, the School Administration and Dearborn Heights Police immediately investigate the threat. This includes our Dearborn Heights Police School Resource Officer (SRO), Dearborn Heights Police Detective Unit, and any support Central Office Staff can give.

Third, all individuals involved in the threat are interviewed. These can be the person(s) who made the threat, had access to the threat via social media (Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook, text, etc…), or may possibly be a target of a threat. The investigation also includes searching the home of the person who made the threat and interviewing parents if they are minors or live at home.

Fourth, after the information is gathered, the Dearborn Heights Police along with the School and District Administration determine the next steps for how we handle school functionality.

Fifth, School Administration will communicate with parents.

We want all parents to be ensured that we will always complete a thorough investigation prior to making a final decision on school operations. We are confident that with our partnership with the Dearborn Heights Police and our School Resource Officer program, we will always exhaust all means before a decision is made.

BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP!

First, we need all parents, students, and our community to report to the school administration immediately whenever they hear of a threat or deem something as a threat. As a community we have to work together for the safety of our students, staff, and community.

Second, please help us reduce fear by not spreading ‘hearsay’. If you hear something that does not come from the school principal, please call the school and get clarification. Too often rumors spread faster than reality and this makes Threats more Dangerous.
Third, please monitor your children’s social media. Monitoring social media is no different than monitoring our children’s language, school work, where they go, who they go places with, or anything that we monitor to keep our children safe.

Finally, we at the Crestwood Schools do not take threats lightly and we will Prosecute ALL and ANY Threats made by anyone that places our students, families, and staff in danger. This prosecution can lead to jail time, fines, and expulsion.

Our First Priority is the Safety of our Schools and Community. This safety also includes not spreading rumors as rumors are as dangerous as threats. We must work together, report what we hear and see, and seek the truth without spreading ‘hearsay’. Let’s be One Community with One Mission!

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Dr. Youssef Mosallam
Superintendent of Schools