



PENNRIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

1200 North Fifth Street, Perkasie, Pennsylvania 18944

215-257-5011

A Letter from Superintendent, Dr. David A. Bolton & the Pennridge School District on School & Community Safety

Dear Pennridge Community,

In the Pennridge School District, our top priority is the safety and well-being of our students. We value the responsibility of a school community aimed at empowering our students, parents, and staff to feel protected in and around our schools and address any threats or concerns immediately as they arise.

There was an increased police presence before school this morning at North Middle. We wanted to provide our school community with as much information as possible while still ensuring the rights and privacy of everyone involved. Pennridge School Police, together with local police agencies determined that, what began as a sibling dispute between two North students at their home, was carried over to their bus stop. At the bus stop, as the argument continued, alleged threatening comments were heard by other students that one sibling “had a gun” and was “going to shoot” the other sibling.

A student who overheard this argument texted their parent, who immediately made a Safe2Say report. We are thankful that they did. As a result, both Pennridge and local police officers responded immediately to the school before both students’ arrival on separate buses. It is imperative to note that at no point did a Pennridge student have a gun at a bus stop, on a District bus, or near a Pennridge school.

The Nashville school shooting, coupled with the alleged threats in Pennridge High School last week, has caused many to ask real questions about responses to threats.

First, please know that all threats are taken seriously and are immediately acted upon by building, district, and local law enforcement personnel. The district has emergency protocols

that are activated as appropriate based on the content of the report. Whether it is a Safe2Say report, an email, a phone call, or social media report, the threat is investigated by building administration, district administration, the Pennridge School Police Officers, and local law enforcement.

The investigations include speaking directly with the students, and parents, of those alleged to be making a threat. If a weapon is mentioned, local police will ensure that the student does not have a weapon or access to one. Individuals mentioned in the threat, as potential victims or witnesses, are interviewed, and their parents are notified.

We are thankful for the quick response of our school personnel and local law enforcement this morning, who quickly accessed the information and ensured that no credible threat was involved.

The events at the High School last week continue to be inaccurately mentioned through social media and among individuals in the community. This amplifies the need to quickly report any threat or concern and then rely on the official information provided. Please do not share information across the community that you do not know to be true. As was reported by the local police department, one of the situations from last week was a classroom discussion about the Nashville shooting where no threat of harm or use of a weapon was mentioned. The second student connected with some threats was not even involved in this conversation and never made any disturbing or threatening comments at all last week. Our initial email last week stated that no credible threat was found, and I should have been clearer that no actual threat was ever made at all.

Please continue to share any concerns that you have and please speak with your child about the dangers of sharing unverified information with their friends and on social media.

I appreciate the concerns in the community and assure you that we continue to prioritize the care, safety, and security of all in the Pennridge Community.

Sincerely,

-David

David A. Bolton, Ed.D., Superintendent