

**Superintendent of Schools** Phone: 269-695-8401 Fax: 269-695-8450

401 West Chicago Street Buchanan, Michigan 49107

September 16, 2022

Dear Buck Families,

Once again, I am saddened to share that a threat was made at the High School today. A handwritten note was found in a restroom stall along with comments written on that stall's walls. Upon learning about the threat, the district contacted law enforcement. The police spent the afternoon investigating the situation and ensuring student safety. Additionally, Principal Pruett and Superintendent Robinson stressed the importance of reporting school threats and partnering with school leadership to support a safe learning environment.

Out of an abundance of caution, police will be present at Buchanan High School starting Monday, both inside and outside of the school building. If needed, law enforcement and district officials will perform random bag searches next week as an added level of security (Board of Education Policy 5771). Please be reminded, the Berrien County Sheriff issued a warning notice to anyone who makes a school threat. All threats will be taken seriously, will be investigated, and will be forwarded to the County Prosecutor's office.

Our students have had major educational disruptions this week due to school threats. This is unacceptable. Not only does their academic success suffer, threats may:

- Put the public and their lives at risk
- Deplete valuable law enforcement resources that could have been directed at solving or preventing other crimes
- Cause emotional distress to the entire community

With that said, we encourage you to talk with your student about school threats, their impact, and the consequences that can result from such actions.

School safety remains our number one priority. The district will continue to work with law enforcement officials to ensure that all Buchanan Community Schools students attend classes while in a safe learning environment. I also want to commend those students who shared this information with school leadership. Please be reminded that, in addition to reporting threats to school staff and the Herd Hotline (269-409-1153), everyone has access to the confidential reporting tool <u>OK2Say</u>.



If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me at 269-695-8401.

Sincerely,

Patricia Robinson Superintendent