

PROVISO TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOLS
District 209 – Cook County

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James L. Henderson, Ed.D.,
Superintendent

September 24, 2021

Dear Proviso Community,

SUBJECT: Safety Above All Else

I am writing today regarding threats recently made toward our schools on social media.

This issue is not unique to Proviso. There have been recent reports of students posting what appears to be a threat of violence to schools. In the vast majority of cases, these posts turn out to be non-credible threats where students did not intend harm or have access to weapons that could cause harm to a school. Students will often say the online post or threat was a joke. The safety of our children is not a joke.

We would like to make it very clear that our school district does not take these threats lightly. We will not tolerate this kind of behavior and will continue to treat and investigate each incident with the utmost seriousness. Any student found to be making these threats, or participating in the creation of these threats, will face the harshest consequences in accordance with District policy. Additionally, we will assist law enforcement in their investigation of any threat against the school.

We would like to remind students that they should immediately contact a parent, teacher, staff member, security officer, principal, or other trusted adult if they become aware of a threat. We all play a vital role in working to keep our schools safe.

I want to thank our school staff and local law enforcement for their quick response to these threats. I would also like to thank parents for their patience and understanding during these events. And finally, thank our Board of Education members who are fielding calls from parents and relating them back to us. We know that these threats carry many unknowns and are frightening. Each threat reported to us will be investigated immediately, and safety precautions will be taken as we determine the validity of each threat.

We also ask that parents assist us by regularly monitoring your child's activity online, as well as ensuring they understand the seriousness and the consequences of making threats of this nature.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James L. Henderson".

Dr. James L. Henderson
Superintendent