

Thursday, October 6, 2016

Dear PHM Parent/Guardian,

This letter is to inform you that on Wednesday, Oct. 5 Penn-Harris-Madison Administration was made aware of a noncredible social media threat, circulating in Indiana and across the country, related to the recent alleged Clown Attacks. The post reads as follows: *"We will be at all High schools this Friday to either kidnap students or kill teachers going to they cars ... #WeNotClowninAround"* This same message was brought to the attention of Fort Wayne Community Schools and other school districts last week.

It is very important to note that local, state and national law enforcement agencies do not believe this threat to be credible and instead to be a hoax taking advantage of the national fear revolving around these alleged attacks. The post does not name Penn High School nor any other P-H-M school. Director of Safety and Student Services Mike Seger is working closely with St. Joseph County Police Department and the Cyber Crimes Unit on this investigation. Law Enforcement is investigating the origin of the post and the time frame of when it was made.

While the alleged threat identified high schools in general and did not specifically name Penn High School, Penn's campus is in close proximity to Bittersweet Elementary and Schmucker Middle Schools. Therefore P-H-M Administration has decided to take the necessary safety provisions and follow our District established Security Precautions at all three schools **tomorrow, Friday, October 7**. P-H-M School Resource Officers and officers from St. Joseph County Police Department will be present at Penn, Schmucker and Bittersweet to ensure the safety of students, teachers and staff.

We understand, support and respect your decision as parents and guardians. Even though authorities have no reason to believe that the threat pertains to any P-H-M school and you choose not to send your student(s) to school on Friday, Oct. 7, please call your school's attendance number by the designated time outlined in your student handbook; it will be considered an excused absence for the day.

Remind your children to report any unsafe behavior or situation to an adult ... see something, say something!

P-H-M utilizes the **Safe School Helpline®** as a confidential way to report student concerns about weapons, threats, drugs, bullying or anything else that threatens the safety of our schools. It is Available 24/7 via phone, text or online:

Safe School Helpline®

Call: 1-800-418-6423, ext. 359

Text: TIPS to 66746

Online: SafeSchoolHelpline.com