

OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
CLINTON COUNTY, MICHIGAN

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Dear Parents:

This letter is to ensure you that our offices take threats to the safety of our community very seriously. Every parent, student, teacher and school employee deserves to feel comfortable knowing that their school is a safe place for children to learn.

Unfortunately, the heartbreaking events at Oxford High School and threats that followed have damaged the feeling of safety in our schools. **These threats are and will not be viewed as a joke and will not be accepted, condoned or tolerated.** Clinton County law enforcement, and each school district, want to make this abundantly clear – we take these threats seriously.

False reports or threat of terrorism, or threat of a bomb/harmful device, public threat – false report, using a computer to commit a crime, intentional threat to commit act of violence against a school and many others are **serious felonies** with punishment of up to 20 years in prison. Juvenile offenders may be prosecuted as adults in certain circumstances. Aside from criminal penalties, these actions cause fear, anxiety, and depression throughout our communities.

We urge you to speak with your children and discuss there is simply nothing funny about any shooting or a threat of a shooting or any other type of a threat. Please explain to them that such threats are taken very seriously and will be thoroughly investigated by the school and law enforcement and prosecuted in accordance with the law, and that some things cannot be joked about.

Not only is this serious, but there are various ways to report threats and if they see something to say something. Safety is everyone's responsibility and it starts with you! OK2SAY is available state-wide for public and private schools in Michigan; anybody can submit a confidential tip. Specially trained technicians receive the tips and filter the information to the appropriate agency to provide a timely and effective response. Schools are encouraged to go to: www.michigan.gov/ok2say for more information.

We are a community and by working together we can ensure that our children can learn and grow in safety. Clinton County is an amazing place to raise a family, and we know that we will all do our part to ensure that it stays that way.

Respectfully,

Tony Spagnuolo, Clinton County Prosecuting Attorney; Sheriff Larry Jerue, Clinton County Sheriff Department; Chief Lyle Lindemulder, Bath Township Police Department; Chief Bruce Ferguson, DeWitt City Police Department; Chief Mike Gute, DeWitt Township Police Department; Chief Joe Spagnuolo, Elsie Police Department; Chief Ron Gwizdala, Ovid Police Department; Chief David Kirk, St. Johns Police Department

Clinton County Superintendents: Bath Community Schools – Paul Hartsig, CCRESA – Wayne Petroelje, DeWitt Public Schools – Shanna Spickard, Fowler Public Schools – Mark Horak, Ovid-Elsie Area Schools – Ryan Cunningham, Pewamo-Westphalia Community Schools – Jennifer Goodman, St. Johns Public Schools – Mark Palmer

Non-Public School Administrators: Anne Hufnagel, Most Holy Trinity School – Fowler; Patricia O’Mara, St. Joseph School – Pewamo; Chris Wells, St. Joseph School – St. Johns; Helen Hengesbach – St. Mary’s School – Westphalia; Erika Brown, St. Peter Lutheran School – St. Johns