



NILES

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

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We are writing to provide you with information regarding a recent, unfortunate incident involving our school community. At 7:06 a.m., the Niles Police Department alerted us to a disturbing email threat targeting two Niles Community Schools and one Brandywine school. This threat was directed to the Michigan City Police Department in Indiana and outlined the placement of bombs at each specified location.

Out of an abundance of caution and given the timing of notification, Ballard Elementary was closed, and Niles High School was evacuated. To allow for a thorough investigation and sweep by emergency personnel and rather than have staff and students hold for an undetermined amount of time at the relocation site, we closed the high school. As a precautionary measure, access to all other district buildings was restricted, and outdoor activities were canceled.

By 12:30 p.m., we received confirmation that neither the high school nor Ballard Elementary contained any explosive devices. Following guidance from our local police department, restrictions on access to all other school buildings were lifted. Additionally, Brandywine Community Schools reported that no explosive devices were found within their facilities.

Please rest assured that Niles Community Schools and the Niles Police Department take every threat seriously, and we are committed to maintaining a safe environment for our children and school personnel. In response to recent events, we are grateful to have the support of dedicated canine detection teams as well as cybercrime units at the Michigan State Police, Berrien County Sheriff, and the Corewell Health Security departments to aid in these investigations.

We urge the entire community to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity promptly. It is crucial to emphasize that making threats of violence towards our children and educational institutions is a severe criminal offense, regardless of the individual's intent to carry them out. We will pursue legal action against anyone involved in such acts to the fullest extent of the law.

We expect all schools to be in session tomorrow and members of our critical support team will be at Ballard and Niles High School to support students and staff if needed.

We deeply appreciate your understanding and cooperation during this challenging time.

Best regards,

Daniel Applegate, Superintendent