

Washington
Township
Public
Schools



Eileen Abbott Central Administration Building
Office of the Superintendent
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(856) 589-6644 • FAX (856) 256-8931

October 28, 2021

Re: Anonymous Threats

Dear Washington Township Families:

Today, an anonymous threat was phoned into Washington Township High School. Though specific to the high school, the threat included other details that raised issues regarding its credibility.

As a precaution, the high school was ordered into a “shelter in place” until local police, with the assistance of county and federal authorities, could properly vet the threat. For clarification, a “shelter in place” order requires the exterior doors of the school to be secured, with no traffic permitted into or out of the building. While under this order, school continues to operate as normal as possible, and students continue to receive in-class instruction. There may be an occasion where we limit mobility within the building and keep our students in the same class.

Outside the building, our police and local sheriff’s department secure the premises and block entrances and are stationed around the perimeter to protect our school, our staff, and our kids. The police, and our administration, take these threats seriously. We rely on their judgment, to determine the credibility of the threat, and their leadership to give us the “all clear,” allowing us to lift the “shelter in place” order.

In today’s case, as well as in the case of the last threat that impacted multiple districts in Gloucester County, the caller is using a sophisticated application, making it difficult to trace the location of the call. And, unlike the last incident, this call came directly to our high school. Within an hour’s time, the police were able to clear the threat and safely direct a return to normal operation.

I want to thank our local police, and all those involved, for their professionalism in protecting us and swiftly launching their investigation. It was impressive to watch the team of officers working collaboratively to clear the threat, while protecting us at the same time. We are truly blessed to have such dedicated folks working on behalf of our kids, staff, and community.

Thank you for your ongoing patience and continued support of our efforts to make safety our top priority.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Bollendorf". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Mr. Joseph Bollendorf, Superintendent