

Greetings Parents:

This is an email that no school leader wishes to send, but alas, we live in a time when schools are having to be extra vigilant in regard to the safety of students and staff.

Sadly, threats that target schools seems to be widespread across our country, and the region that we live in is not immune to this.

Now, let me be clear - I am not sending this to you because of any threat that PSPA has received. On the contrary, I am sending this to you because parents are a critical part of our school safety strategy and we need your help to be proactive. At the request of our friends at the Holly Springs Police Department (HSPD), all school leaders in our area have been asked to remind parents that we need your help in educating students about the importance of not making threats, or using language that could be considered threatening - and by "language" we mean not just that of which is spoken but also includes words and/or photos that students may text or post on social media sites. (Resource article: [Teaching Kids to Be Smart About Social Media](#))

Fortunately, the vast majority of threats that schools and workplaces receive do not result in anyone being physically hurt. Unfortunately, the exceptions to this, as we all know, can be tragic. Regardless of whether a threat is real or intended to be a hoax, the impact is costly in terms of staff time, monetarily, and emotionally. Any form of communication that threatens violence towards a school, even if it is knowingly false, is classified as a felony and will be charged as such.

These can be difficult conversations to have with your student, but they are conversations that must take place so that students understand the severity of the consequences that can come with making inappropriate and/or threatening comments or actions.

On behalf of our school and local law enforcement, thank you for your support.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Friend  
Head of School