

Eastport-South Manor Central School District

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January 10, 2024

Dear Staff, Parents and Guardians,

Yesterday, near the end of the school day, it was reported to our Junior-Senior High School Administration that a verbal threat was made by a 7th grade student to other students during their lunch period on Monday. After investigation, the student's parents were notified of the situation in the afternoon and also informed that their child should not come to campus today.

Following our procedures, once it was determined that a threat was made by an individual student, we notified local law enforcement, so they can investigate the situation as well. In this case, the Suffolk County Police Department began their investigation yesterday evening. I want you to know that the District will also address the student who made the threatening comments with the appropriate school consequences, as well as any necessary education and support regarding the gravity of such comments.

Please know that the Junior-Senior High School campus is operating under normal conditions today.

I encourage everyone to take this opportunity to discuss with our children the importance of; "If You See Something, Say Something". This also includes; "If You Hear Something, Say Something".

With this in mind, I would like to remind everyone that we have a Safe School Helpline® available for our students and families. This helpline is simply an additional tool we have to help inform us about threats to our schools. It is designed to assist you in reporting any wrongdoing that impacts our schools, our students, or our staff. This reporting system is available should you wish to report harmful or threatening behavior which might include: bullying, violence, theft, drug/alcohol use, suicide, sexual harassment or weapons possession. Please know that in order to protect your privacy, all reports are submitted anonymously.

You can make a report to the Safe School Helpline® in any one of these three ways:

1. **CALL:** 1-800-418-6423 (ext. 359)
2. **TEXT:** "TIPS" to 614-426-0240
3. **ONLINE:** <https://www.safeschoolhelpline.com/> - Which is also on the front page of our website under Quick Links.

Please remember that all reports made to the helpline are anonymous. This means that your message will not be traced, and you will not be identified. Once a report is taken, the Safe School Helpline® team will contact school officials, so the appropriate action can be taken.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and attention to this matter. As always, our top priority is the safety and security of our students and staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph A. Steimel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Joseph" and last name "Steimel" clearly legible.

Joseph A. Steimel
Superintendent of Schools