

Dayton Avenue School

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JOSEPH A. STEIMEL
Superintendent of Schools



SHELITA WATKIS, PH.D
Principal

May 14, 2025

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am writing to inform you of a deeply concerning and dangerous trend that has recently come to our attention. It has been reported that some students are participating in a viral TikTok challenge that involves inserting inappropriate items into the USB ports of their school-issued Chromebooks. This behavior is not only damaging the devices but is also creating significant safety hazards.

Tampering with the USB ports has already led to several instances of electrical shorts in schools throughout the country, some of which have caused the devices to emit toxic smoke. More alarmingly, there is a very real risk that these compromised devices could trigger a thermal runaway in the lithium-ion batteries, which may result in an explosive fire condition. This poses a severe threat not only to the student handling the device but to everyone nearby.

Please refer to the attached Information Bulletin from the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services Office of Fire Prevention and Control which offers more detailed information about this trend. Safety is our highest priority, and we cannot allow such reckless actions to endanger our school community. We ask that you please take this opportunity to speak with your child about the seriousness of this behavior.

As a reminder, any student found tampering with a Chromebook in this manner will face strict disciplinary consequences. This includes notification of law enforcement, a suspension and Superintendent's Hearing, which may result in further disciplinary action in excess of a 5 day out-of-school suspension. In addition, the District will seek financial reimbursement for the full replacement cost of the damaged device.

We appreciate your support in helping us reinforce the importance of responsible behavior and digital citizenship. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school administration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Shelita Watkis", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Dr. Watkis
Principal

Eastport-South Manor Central School District

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