

TO: Parents & Guardians
FROM: Chuck Grable
DATE: Jan. 8, 2024
RE: Threat and Building Evacuations

As you are hopefully aware, this morning around 8:46, Pioneer Regional Schools received an emailed bomb threat for both schools. The safety of our students and staff is always our first priority. At that time, no one else in the area had received similar threats so the decision was made that we needed to take it seriously, evacuate both buildings, and have law enforcement search both buildings. Since both buildings received the threat, we had to evacuate to our secondary locations at local churches. Both buildings were searched by law enforcement bomb sniffing dogs and cleared for a safe return for students and staff.



Pioneer Regional School Corporation

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Later this morning, an email was received that explosives were inside other area schools and municipalities. Local law enforcement was also in contact with the FBI. After finding Pioneer to be safe and clear, and discovering the email was later sent to multiple schools and municipalities from the Indiana/Michigan border all the way to the Indiana/Kentucky border, it was not viewed as a credible threat.

All threats to our schools are taken seriously and investigated thoroughly. We wanted to make sure that you have the facts so that you can discuss them with your child and emphasize the seriousness of this issue. The investigation is ongoing and as we continue to monitor the situation, we will share information as necessary.

We want to take this opportunity to thank our local law enforcement, our local churches, our community, our parents, our staff, and our students for the incredible job they did this morning under difficult circumstances! In the coming days, our leadership teams will be meeting to discuss today's events and debrief on what went well and on opportunities for improvement.

After going through our Reunification Procedures this morning, here are a couple reminders for our parents/guardians:

1. **Communication:** Because phones were not easily available, the following tools were utilized this morning to communicate with parents: our website, Twitter/X, messages/notifications sent out through our mobile App (this will be our primary tool), and emails sent to parents. If you did not receive them:
 - Make sure you have the **correct email** entered in Harmony
 - Make sure you've downloaded and signed in to use our **Mobile App** and receive notifications
 - Make sure we have an **updated phone number** in Harmony
2. When picking up your child, you must have a **photo ID** with you to show at the front office or reunification table. You may only pick up your child/children.
3. Make sure you have updated the **Reunification Form** and **Emergency Contact** lists in Harmony. Students will only be released to people listed in those two forms and who have a photo ID.

Again, maintaining a safe and secure environment for our students and staff is our number one priority. Thank you for your patience and understanding this morning as we worked through this difficult situation and through our safety procedures! If you have any questions, please contact your child's school.

Superintendent: Dr. Charles Grable