



May 29, 2018

Dear Parents:

When our children learn of school shootings, bomb threats and similar threats of violence, the overwhelming majority of them handle this news with appropriate and understandable worry and confusion. Unfortunately, others see this as an opportunity to cause more fear and chaos; some with the hopes of simply getting out of school for the day, others with the hope of getting some sort of peer or media attention. As educators and law enforcement professionals, we are working together across Eaton County to provide the expectation of safe learning environments in our schools.

There has been a notable rise across our nation, our state, and our County of threats made to our schools, students, teachers, and other professionals. Although many of the students that have created such situations claim they were "just joking", or "didn't think it was a big deal", it is a big deal. That is why all local Law Enforcement Officials, School Superintendents, the Sheriff and Prosecutor from Eaton County are reaching out to you.

It is imperative that we partner with students, parents and our communities to keep our schools safe. We urge you to speak with your children about the power of their actions, words, text messages and social media posts, and that threatening actions or words, done even in jest, can have significant criminal, educational and life-long consequences.

If students engage in threatening behaviors, their actions and words will not be tolerated and they will be held accountable. They will be investigated by law enforcement and prosecuted in accordance with the law. Parents and the public are reminded that even a "false bomb threat" is a high-class felony. Additionally, a student might lose a scholarship or financial aid, and admission into college or the military may be affected. A prank is no joke when police resources are wasted, and school communities have to respond to threats.

Respectfully,

Law Enforcement: Charlotte PD Chief Lisa Sherman; Eaton Rapids PD Chief Larry Weeks; Grand Ledge PD Chief Martin Underhill; Potterville PD Chief Shane Bartlett; Eaton County Sheriff Tom Reich; and Eaton County Prosecuting Attorney Douglas Lloyd

Superintendents: Cindy Anderson, Eaton RESA; Mark Rosekrans, Charlotte PS; Dr. Bill DeFrance, Eaton Rapids PS; Dr. Brian Metcalf, Grand Ledge PS; Michelle Falcon, Maple Valley PS; and Dr. Thomas Pillar, Potterville PS