



# Smethport Area School District

## Administration Office

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December 16, 2021

Dear Parents, Caregivers, Families, and Students,

Smethport Area School District has become aware of a troubling post that has been shared widely this week throughout the country on the social media platform TikTok. The post refers to a threat to school safety "for every school in the USA, even elementary," on Friday, December 17.

The post appears to be part of a national TikTok trend and did not originate in our school district. While we do not believe the threat to be credible, we are closely monitoring the situation and taking it seriously. Law enforcement officials have indicated that the original TikTok challenge was for students to skip school on December 17. At some point the challenge was changed to a threat.

Additionally, the district has been in contact with the Smethport Borough Police Department regarding the post. We may have an increased police presence in our buildings on Friday out of an abundance of caution.

This situation serves as a good example of why it is important to avoid sharing posts online that refer to school safety threats. Even if they are not credible threats, they can cause a great deal of stress and anxiety for our students, families, and staff. We ask our families to monitor their children's social media activity and speak with them about proper behavior online. Thank you for your support.

If you or your child become aware of any potential threat posted to social media or anywhere else, please notify a school staff member, law enforcement, or trusted adult right away. Public safety is a shared responsibility that takes all of us working together.

As always, thank you for your partnership as we work to ensure a safe, secure, and positive learning environment for our students.

Sincerely,

Mr. Brice N. Benson

Superintendent of Schools

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**Mr. Brice N. Benson**  
Superintendent

**Mr. Jeffrey S. Wagner**  
Business Manager

**Mr. Douglas Dickerson**  
High School Principal

**Ms. Kristin J. Zona**  
Elementary Principal

**Mrs. Kerri J. Dach**  
Director of Special Education

**Mrs. Anna M. Stewart**  
Assistant Principal

**Mr. Kevin C. Kolivoski**  
Technology Coordinator