

December 17, 2021



Dear Byron Area Schools Families:

Late this afternoon, the Byron Area School's high school administrative team was made aware by several student reports of concerning graffiti in a bathroom. We immediately examined the drawings and are working with the Durand Police Department to investigate this situation, as we investigate ALL reports.

**At this time, there are no threats to our students or schools.** The graffiti did NOT make specific threats but did include a hand drawn image of a gun among other drawings. We understand this may seem like an excessive response, but we will not take chances with safety.

I would like to share these crucial points again today. We take all threats seriously; making threats is a crime. Please speak with your children about the seriousness of making or sharing threats. Law enforcement and school leaders will investigate every threat and take whatever action is warranted to protect our community. The consequences of any false threats should also be explained. Making threats of violence against a school is a crime - even if the threat is false or a "joke," and sharing or posting unknown threats is extremely traumatizing. Under Michigan law, anyone who commits a False Report or Threat of Terrorism is subject to penalties that may include a 20-year felony with a prison sentence and/or a \$20,000 fine as well as reimbursement for expenses incurred from the violation. The Shiawassee County Prosecutor has made it clear they will charge students who make these threats. I encourage you to please speak to your children and assure them law enforcement will investigate every threat and take necessary action to protect our communities.

We respectfully ask our students and community members to report any threats on social media platforms or text messages by contacting 911 or use the confidential reporting tool [OK2Say](#). We understand the very real pressure and fear that our students are feeling and know that our parents and staff are equally concerned. We remain committed to our relationship with local law enforcement, who take every report or rumor seriously and investigate immediately.

I would like to thank the students who brought this information forward for their collective efforts in keeping our school safe. This allowed the Durand Police Department to work swiftly.

The safety of our students and staff is our top priority. We will continue to communicate and maintain transparency with you through School Messenger emails and voice calls regarding safety and security issues. Thank you for your understanding and support of Byron Area Schools and our students.

Sincerely,

David Schulte, Acting Superintendent