



Ian Henry <ian.henry@mercerislandschools.org>

Message From Superintendent Rundle On Nationwide Viral School Shooting Threat

1 message

Fred Rundle <communications@mercerislandschools.org>

Fri, May 5, 2023 at 12:35 PM

Reply-To: communications@mercerislandschools.org

To: Ian.Henry@mercerislandschools.org

Dear Mercer Island Community,

Today, our schools are open and vibrant places for learning. A nationwide viral message is circulating on the internet and social media related to a planned high school shooting on 5/5/23 that I want to alert you to. This message does not identify a specific school, district or state targeted but is creating disruption far and wide. We have not received any threats to Mercer Island High School.

Our Senior Director of Legal and Compliance, Erin Battersby, contacted our partners at the [Sandy Hook Promise](#) call center. They confirmed that none of the Mercer Island schools have come up in any of the reports they received today.

I spoke with the Chief of Police, Ed Holmes, and the Mercer Island Police Department has not received any information about threats to our schools. While it is believed to be a hoax, our schools will continue to remain committed to student safety just as we are each day.

While we are on the subject of school safety, I want to use the opportunity to update our community on a safety framework we are using in partnership with the Mercer Island Police Department- ALICE. ALICE is an acronym that stands for:

- **Alert-** everyone should be aware of their surroundings.
- **Lockdown-** in the event that the safety of our schools is compromised we will go into a lockdown.
- **Inform-** when we see something we need to say something to an adult, administrator, or law enforcement.
- **Counter-** in a very age-appropriate manner, we discuss ways we may need to counter the threat as a last resort.
- **Evacuate-** when instructed to do so or at an appropriate time we evacuate our schools.

These five actions are not in a sequential order, but they provide a way for us to all work together to keep our schools safe and respond in the best way possible should we need to.

The safety of our students, staff, and community is a paramount priority for our school district and me. I am saddened by the use of social media to cause disruption, but we will continue to take all matters of safety seriously.

Sincerely,

Fred Rundle

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