



ARDSLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dr. Matthew J. Block
Superintendent of Schools

September 16, 2024

Dear Ardsley Families:

The security of our schools is always our top priority. We work each day to implement procedures and practices that are most effective for keeping our schools safe. We closely partner with local police departments and school security consultant, Altaris, to ensure we are providing the safest environment possible for our community.

Over the past few days there have been multiple reports in the news about a high volume of threats being made to schools throughout the United States. The news focused particularly on schools in Indiana, Kentucky, and Illinois, however other locations have been impacted as well. In nearly all reported cases, law enforcement has determined that the threats are non-credible. We have not yet received these erroneous threats, and hope not to receive them going forward. Nonetheless, in light of the news reports, I wanted to remind our school community that:

- All threats made to our schools are taken seriously, communicated to law enforcement, and investigated.
- Even if a threat turns out not to be credible (as has been the case in impacted districts), individuals making a threat will still be subject to school discipline, and/or legal consequences with law enforcement agencies.
- We ask that parents (in an age-appropriate way) let their children know that making threats or posting about school violence is no laughing matter, and it will not be treated as a joke in Ardsley.
- Non-credible threats divert valuable resources and can distract from credible ones.
- All community members continue to be strongly encouraged to report all potential threats by calling the school office, submitting information through Anonymous Alerts (found on the district website), or directly contacting the police. A recent report from the United States Secret Service found that over 80% of people who have plotted violence against schools have communicated their plans in advance. Awareness and action are important. Law enforcement will determine the credibility of any threat. Do not try to make that judgment yourself. Please report!

Please be vigilant, report troubling posts or behavior to the proper authorities, and remind children about the seriousness of this issue. Finally, I invite you to listen to our brief podcast on school security which was released just before the school year started. The podcast can be found on the district website.

Thank you, as always, for your partnership.

Sincerely,

Matthew J. Block, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools