

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Our most important function in the Russell County School District is to provide the safest learning environment possible for all of our students and school staff members. Because of that, the State of Kentucky and Russell County Officials take both **terroristic threatening** and **harassing communications** by adults and/or students very seriously.

Terroristic Threatening in the second degree is defined in state law (KRS 508.078)

(1) A person is guilty of terroristic threatening in the second degree when, other than as provided in KRS 508.075, he or she intentionally:

b) Makes false statements by any means, including by electronic communication, for the purpose of:

1. Causing evacuation of a school building, school property, or school-sanctioned activity;
2. Causing cancellation of school classes or school-sanctioned activity; or
3. Creating fear of serious bodily harm among students, parents, or school personnel

(For the complete text for KRS 508.078 please see the attached page.)

Harassing Communications is defined in state law (KRS 525.080)

(1) A person is guilty of harassing communications when, with intent to intimidate, harass, annoy, or alarm another person, he or she:

(a) Communicates with a person, anonymously or otherwise, by telephone, telegraph, mail, or any other form of electronic or written communication in a manner which causes annoyance or alarm and serves no purpose of legitimate communication;

(b) Makes a telephone call, whether or not conversation ensues, with no purpose of legitimate communication; or

(c) Communicates, while enrolled as a student in a local school district, with or about another school student, anonymously or otherwise, by telephone, the Internet, telegraph, mail, or any other form of electronic or written communication in a manner which a reasonable person under the circumstances should know would cause the other student to suffer fear of physical harm, intimidation, humiliation, or embarrassment and which serves no purpose of legitimate communication.

Such threats and communication to our students and school staff are totally unacceptable and will not be tolerated – **even when this occurs outside of the school day**. As a result, the purpose of this letter is to notify all parents and guardians that school district officials (in coordination with responding law enforcement agencies) will **pursue immediate legal charges for felony terroristic threatening and harassing communications, to the absolute fullest extent of the law, against anyone who makes such threats, including students**. Moreover, we will advocate to our highest ability that the prosecution of these individuals be swift and their punishment be severe.

Together we can prevent this unnecessary, dangerous, and disruptive crime from victimizing our schools. I appreciate your partnership in keeping our school the safest place for your student to learn and grow. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

, Principal

PENALTIES FOR TERRORISTIC THREATENING

Violating a Class D felony (adult) 1-5 years imprisonment (KRS 532.020) and/or \$1,000-\$10,000 fine (KRS 532.020).

Violating a Class C felony (adult), 5-10 years imprisonment (KRS 532.020) and/or \$1,000-\$10,000 fine (KRS 532.020).

Violating a felony (juvenile) fine not to exceed \$500 (KRS 635.085), with fine assessed at the court's discretion in lieu of commitment to the Department of Juvenile Justice.

PENALTIES FOR HARRASSING COMMUNICATIONS

Penalties for a Class B misdemeanor include fines for \$250 (KRS 534.040) and ninety (90) days in jail (KRS 532.090)