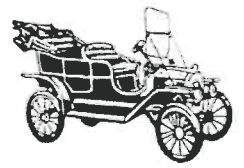


BREITUNG TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS
2000 PYLE DRIVE - KINGSFORD, MICHIGAN 49802
www.kingsford.org
(906) 779-2650 - FAX (906) 779-7703



Craig E. Allen · Superintendent

Jennifer L. Huotari · Director of Finance

September 20, 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian of a BTS Student,

I hope the start of the school year has been a good one for you and your family. Maintaining a positive and productive school culture is very important to everyone in the Breitung Township School District. Our goal is to meet your expectations of a welcoming, safe school environment.

The Dickinson County Prosecuting Attorney's office requested that the enclosed letter, written by Prosecuting Attorney Lisa Richards, be sent to the parents/guardians of all students attending school in Dickinson County.

This letter was not prompted by any particular incident or event. It serves as a timely reminder that making dangerous threats or comments is not a joking matter and can lead to serious consequences. We urge you to take the time to review the contents of the enclosed letter with your child(ren) and stress that the school district is doing everything possible to ensure a safe, orderly and secure learning environment.

We are off to an excellent start and stand committed to providing all students with a high quality educational experience. Thank you for entrusting Breitung Township Schools with your children.

Sincerely,

Craig Allen
Superintendent



**LISA M. RICHARDS
DICKINSON COUNTY
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY**

KRISTIN L. KASS
Chief Assistant Prosecutor

ALEX SIEMINSKI
Assistant Prosecutor

CONNIE LARSON
Victim Rights Advocate

JULIA MALONEY
Legal Secretary

VALERIE OCHS
Department Assistant

KERI MENEGHINI
Secretary

September 6, 2018

Dear Parents:

Few events hit home for students and families like a school shooting. When students learn of these events on television or on social media, it is natural for them to worry about their own school and their own safety. Unfortunately, some students see these tragedies as an opportunity to gain notoriety and make threats against their schools, teachers, and classmates.

In recent months my office has received several reports from law enforcement agencies of students using social media to make threats against schools. Many of these threats turned out to be made by students who claim they were just joking or playing a prank. I want to be very clear: **these threats are no joke, and this behavior will not be tolerated.**

Students should be placed on notice that it is a crime to threaten to commit an act of terrorism or to knowingly make a false report of an act of terrorism, if that threat/false report is communicated to another person. These acts (under current Michigan law) are felony offenses that carry a maximum sentence of up to 20 years in prison.

While the punishments dictated by the criminal justice system are stern, students may face additional negative consequences, including:

- Loss of digital devices used to communicate the threat/false report;
- Loss of scholarships and federal aid;
- Denied college admission;
- Being required to disclose pending cases or criminal convictions on job applications.

I urge you to talk to your children about the appropriate use of social media, and the lasting consequences of making threats against our schools. Please stress that there is nothing humorous about threatening to shoot up a school, and there is no such thing as a joke involving the threat of mass murder.

All threats will continue to be taken seriously and prosecuted to the fullest extent under the law.

By working together, we can provide our children the safe schools they deserve.

Sincerely,

Lisa Richards
Dickinson County Prosecuting Attorney