

Good evening Marauder families,

In the last several years, there has been a nationwide trend where people use social media or participate in other acts in an attempt to frighten others. While the concept of trying to scare a person or a group of people is not new, the increased amount of information and instantaneous connections that people have through electronic communication and social media have resulted in a heightened sense of alarm within our community and surrounding communities. Unfortunately, as a part of this trend, we are seeing our students (who spend the most amount of time on social media) copying these scare tactics.

At Carlson we take the safety of students and staff very seriously. When an incident or threat happens at school, we take every precaution necessary to ensure that everyone is safe. When situations arise that are perceived as threatening, administration and the Gibraltar Police Department work together to determine the credibility of the threat. We work through each situation carefully to ensure that we don't miss important details that put our students and staff in danger.

Many times as we are working through an investigation, students start to spread information to other friends and family that is often incorrect. This starts a cycle of concern and chaos and causes people to wonder what is taking the school so long to respond. We understand how the perception could be that we are not addressing a situation due to the time it may take to send out information. Please know that each and every threat, no matter how credible it is, is taken extremely seriously. This means that a full investigation must happen and that takes time. We also acknowledge that we can't stop incorrect information coming out on social media regarding an incident at a school. Please know that very often the information that is coming from people other than our administration is wrong or embellished.

Today, the administration at CHS met with every student in school to provide reassurance, discuss school safety, and outline appropriate use of social media. It is our hope that through the conversation we had that no other student will find themselves in a situation where their lives change instantly because of a decision that they made to post on social media. We ask for your help to please have a conversation with your child about the dangers of social media. Often times young adults will claim that they are only kidding or they didn't mean to cause a disruption of school, but the reality is they cause many hours of investigation, lost learning time, and most importantly, unnecessary stress on students and families. Additionally, this creates an environment where people fear something that doesn't actually exist and creates a negative association with school. We simply cannot allow those who want to instill fear to take our children's education from them.

Thank you for the tremendous amount of support you have provided as we work through these new challenges. Please know that we have always, and will always, be vigilant about keeping your children safe.

As always, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thank you,

Jessica Shultz

Principal

Carlson High School