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# GRAND SALINE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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September 19, 2024

Dear Grand Saline ISD Parents and Community,

Grand Saline ISD is committed to safety and security of your children first and foremost. Since September 11, 2024 there have been many legitimate and false threats to school safety throughout the nation. Texas and Grand Saline ISD have not been immune to this. Last week there were rumors Grand Saline ISD was on a list of schools to be attacked in some way. These rumors were not true.

This week we have had a student at the Intermediate School write in a cell phone group email that the student was going "to shoot up the school". We have also had a student at the Middle School tell another student he was going "to shoot up the school" and cause bodily harm to the other student. Both expressions are unacceptable. Both situations have been investigated fully and it is determined by law enforcement and myself there is no legitimate threat to Grand Saline ISD.

GSISD Teachers and Principals teach our children not to make threats to others whether in person or using cell phones or social media. We will double our efforts to make sure students are not misusing their words and cell phones. While the first cell phone incident was not at school, it is clear cell phone usage in school is a definite distraction to teaching and learning. The Grand Saline ISD Student Handbook allows for students to possess cell phones, however they must be turned off during instructional time unless the teacher has given permission for the cell phone to be used. Cell phones will be taken up if used without permission.

I ask that parents join us in our efforts to have students talk and use phones and social media in a proper way. If you allow your student to have a cell phone, check it regularly. Remind them not to engage in inappropriate conversation including bullying or threats to others or schools. Help us drive home the idea that it is never acceptable to say, "I'm going to shoot up the school" even if it is said as a joke. Remind them this type of joke will result in serious disciplinary consequences. If you or your child have information on a possible threat, please contact a teacher, principal, police officer or my office. Perpetuating information that may be false on social media does nothing to solve the issue and usually causes more harm than good.

I end this with saying your children are experiencing a vast amount of positive learning events at school. We will not let threats keep your children from getting a great education as we do everything in our power to keep them safe. Thank you for trusting us to be a partner with you in the education of your child.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Micah Lewis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Micah Lewis  
Superintendent  
Grand Saline ISD