



Dunklin R-5 School District

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March 17, 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians:

This letter is to inform you of an incident that was brought to our attention last evening after school hours. Local law enforcement was contacted by a parent and alerted that a student at Senn-Thomas Middle School had brought a gun to school yesterday and showed it to other students before school was dismissed yesterday afternoon. At least one student informed their parent of this when they got home which triggered the call to police; none of the students informed any staff members about this incident.

Local law enforcement, including one of our school resource officers, immediately informed school administration in order to get contact information for the student in question and went to the student's residence. It was determined that the student had brought an airsoft gun, not an actual handgun, to school yesterday. The student had brought the airsoft gun to school so that they could take it with them to their destination after school, not with the intention of threatening or scaring other students with it.

While we want to reassure all parents and students that there was never a real threat to the safety of our students and staff, we take incidents like this very seriously and appropriate disciplinary action will be enforced based on the conclusions of the investigation of the incident. We applaud the actions of the student who reported this to their parent and the parent who informed law enforcement of the perceived threat. Please continue to remind your child to immediately report any suspicious or potentially dangerous activity to school personnel and/or another adult.

Even though there was no specific or credible threat involved with this incident, we felt that it was important to inform all of our families about this issue. If you have any questions about this, please feel free to call 636-479-5200 ext. 1.

Sincerely,

Stan Stratton
Superintendent