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Dear Parents:

When our children learn of school shootings and similar threats, the overwhelming majority handle such news appropriately. Unfortunately, a dangerous few view this news as an opportunity to cause more fear and chaos; some with the hope of simply getting out of school for the day; others with the hope of gaining some sort of peer notoriety.

After the Oxford High School shooting, there has been a notable rise in Michigan of threats made to our schools, students, and the teachers and other professionals working to educate our children there. Although many of the students who have created such situations may claim later that they were "just joking," or did not think it was "a big deal," making such threats is illegal—regardless of intent. That is why I am—on behalf of all Menominee County law enforcement chiefs, school superintendents and the Sheriff—reaching out to you directly to state unequivocally that **SUCH THREATS ARE NOT A JOKE AND WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.**

Prior instances of such behavior have led to my filing felony criminal charges, including Threat of Terrorism, False Threat of Terrorism, the Intentional Threat to Commit Act of Violence Against School, School Employees or Students, and the Use of a Computer to Commit a Crime. The most serious of these crimes carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison.

The sanctions imposed by the criminal justice system are not the only consequences that can be imposed for his behavior. A student may lose eligibility for scholarships or federal financial aid. He or she may be denied college admission, entry into the armed forces and he or she may be required to disclose the situation on job applications. The "unintended consequences" of such behavior can be severe and lifelong.

I therefore urge you to speak with your children about the power of their words, and remind them that what they say—even in jest—can have significant adverse consequences. There is simply nothing funny about any shooting, let alone one that occurs in a school, and there is never an appropriate time or place to joke about such events. To be clear: any such threats will be fully investigated by Menominee law enforcement and aggressively prosecuted, by me, in accordance with the law.

Very truly yours,


Jeffrey T. Rogg