



BUNKER HILL MIDDLE SCHOOL

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"Bulldog...It's more than our mascot; it's our character"

Michael J. D'Ostilio
Principal

Gregory Muscelli, Ed.D.
Assistant Principal

April 25, 2023

Dear Bulldog Families and Staff,

Last evening, I sent a letter to families regarding some concerning emails that were being sent to a teacher at BHMS. As I stated in that letter, those emails were referencing violence to the school. As a result of the letter, I was fortunate to receive some calls from parents whose children had knowledge of the emails. I was also fortunate that the Washington Township Investigative Bureau was able to finally have primary contact with the originator of the email.

At school today, we interviewed some of the students who were knowledgeable about the email. The email was discussed in a group chat called Discord and the person who wrote the letter let the individuals in the chat know that it was being sent. The individual who sent the email was an acquaintance of a few of our students, but lives in another state. The detectives have that person's name and are letting their counterparts in that state know of the emails. Additionally, I was able to view excerpts of that chat and confirm that none of our BHMS students wrote the email.

This situation utilized a ton of resources and time among many community stakeholders, and in order to ensure our students were safe, we had to inconvenience a lot of families as we were trying to narrow our search. While this situation was problematic, it did remind me that we as a school, as families, and a community, we need to consistently reiterate the importance of "see something? Hear something? Say Something!" We will be talking at length to the students on the Discord chat and attend BHMS. As a school and community, we need to help students understand that in the climate of times that we live in, nothing is a joke or fake when it comes to the welfare and safety of our students. Everything is taken seriously because unfortunately mass violence in schools happens way too often and we at Bunker Hill and Washington Township Schools are committed to exhausting all resources to keep our children safe.

As I close this letter, I want to again thank the detectives of the Washington Township Police Department, Officer Hamilton, Dr. Muscelli, our IT department, our counseling department, our teacher who kept us abreast of the emails, and our parents that specially helped provide leads to resolve the concern.

I am truly grateful to lead Bunker Hill because of the students, staff, and families we have both at the school and district level and the community partnership we have with the police as well as other emergency personnel. This was a true team effort. The threat is resolved!

As stated in my previous letter, if you have any questions, please feel free to reach out.

Very Sincerely,

Mike D'Ostilio