

# ORCHARD VIEW SCHOOLS

35 S. SHERIDAN DRIVE  
MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN 49442  
[www.orchardview.org](http://www.orchardview.org)

February 8, 2023

Dear Orchard View Community,

Late this morning I was made aware of a “potential threat” directed to the middle school. A student used their personal cell phone to call the Orchard View Middle School Office to make the threat. The student was identified and detained in the office immediately until a risk assessment could be completed with assistance from Muskegon Township Police. There was no credibility to the threat and at no time were students or staff at risk. The student has been turned over to local authorities who are currently working with the juvenile court system.

Again, I want to take this opportunity to share a prior statement from Muskegon County Prosecutor, D.J. Hilson:

*“Any threat, real or implied, against a school, staff, or students is a felony. A criminal threat can be verbal, written, or posted online. It is not a defense to claim that the threat was a joke or was not going to be acted upon. We encourage parents to be extra vigilant in monitoring their children’s online activities and their electronic devices to ensure the material being posted or disseminated is not threatening in any way. We have been made aware of verbal or written threats being made against schools in other communities, and we are asking our parents to help us prevent such threatening communication from occurring in our community. We are also working with area schools to help spread the message to our kids that jokes about violence against schools are no laughing matter and carry significant consequences.”*

Please take some time this evening to have a conversation with your children about these serious situations. Help them understand the lifelong consequences that can occur with making these types of threats. **Orchard View Schools takes these threats very seriously! Past situations similar to this have resulted in suspension, expulsion and even prosecution.** Please remind children if they see something or hear something, say something!

If you have questions or concerns please call me at 231-760-1300 or email me at [jim.nielsen@orchardview.org](mailto:jim.nielsen@orchardview.org).

Sincerely,

*Jim Nielsen*

Jim Nielsen, Superintendent  
Orchard View Schools

***It's a Great Day to be a Cardinal!***