



# FENNVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

"Educational Excellence, Community Atmosphere, Global Vision"

FIVE MEMORIAL DRIVE  
FENNVILLE, MICHIGAN 49408

December 7, 2021

Dear Fennville School Community,

The recent tragedy at Oxford High School has affected schools across our state and beyond, including Fennville. Our hearts continue to go out to those most deeply affected in Oxford as we work diligently to respond to safety concerns in our own community.

Last Friday we reported on an investigation that led to the discovery of a CO2 BB gun in a student's vehicle on campus. It was determined that while possession of any type of gun by a student on campus is a serious offense, there was no expressed threat to the safety of anyone on campus.

On Monday afternoon a picture or meme was posted to social media depicting a high school student and a threatening caption. Concerned students and parents shared screenshots of this post with administrators who began an immediate investigation involving law enforcement. This picture was shared widely on social media throughout the evening and, at some point, words were added over the picture telling Fennville students to not come to school the next day. The investigation continued late that night and into the early morning. Even though it was determined that this picture did not represent a credible threat to the safety of the school, a decision was made to cancel school for Tuesday to give administrators and law enforcement the time necessary to complete a thorough investigation of all concerns.

The picture used in the meme was from June 2020 and copied from a social media account. The caption was added by someone other than the person pictured, and on October 2, 2021, a student sent this meme to others in a texting group. On Monday, December 6, 2021, one of the recipients of the meme chose to post this meme to social media leading others to believe it was a current threat posted by the student in the picture. Rather than being a threat, the creation and posting of this meme was a violation of our bullying policy as the meme was clearly created to make fun of the student in the picture. Unfortunately, those who created and initially posted the meme now face serious potential school and legal consequences for their actions.

We share these details of the situation to show how something that was created and shared to be funny or draw attention on social media led to high levels of fear and serious disruption to our school community. We are focused on maintaining a safe and respectful school environment. When we become aware of any possible threat, we do take it very seriously. We investigate all reports and work cooperatively with the Fennville Police Department and other law enforcement agencies. If a threat is determined to be credible, we take appropriate actions. If a student is found to be making or posting threatening comments as a joke or prank, serious consequences may also be justified. Anyone who makes these types of statements or threats may face expulsion from Fennville Public Schools in addition to criminal prosecution.

Parents, please speak with your children about responsible use of cell phones and social media. We need to be diligent and vigilant as we work together to keep our students, staff, and schools safe. Fennville Public Schools participates in [OK2SAY](#), an anonymous tip line for reporting any concerns regarding criminal activities or potential harm related to our students, staff, or schools. Tips through [OK2SAY](#) can be submitted 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Concerns are best and most effectively addressed when they are shared promptly and directly with officials who are responsible for investigating and responding. When concerns are spread via social media it is much more difficult to draw accurate conclusions and it can spread misinformation or cause further emotional harm to individuals. Addressing concerns appropriately is a means to care for each other and our community.

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As an administrative team tasked with responding to these situations, we are grateful for the cooperation, support and encouragement we receive from the members of our Fennville community. We are also grateful for the collaboration with local law enforcement in caring for our students, staff, and school. Together we will continue our work together to keep Fennville moving forward through the education of our children and youth.

Sincerely,

Jim Greydanus  
Superintendent