

Kelly M. Lyman
Superintendent

December 16, 2021

Dear Mansfield Families,

You may be aware that since the school shooting in Oxford, MI, there have been several unsubstantiated threats made to schools across the country including in Connecticut. Often these threats are made to high schools. Today we were advised by local and state authorities of a troubling post that has been shared widely this week on the social media platform TikTok. The post refers to a threat to school safety “for every school in the USA, even elementary,” on Friday, December 17.

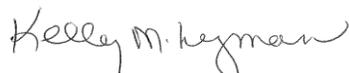
The post appears to be part of a national TikTok trend and did not originate in our school district. We have heard reports from other districts that the same post is circulating in their schools. We have consulted further with the Connecticut State Police Mansfield Resident State Trooper’s office and do not believe the threat to be credible. However, they are closely monitoring the situation. They will have proactive patrol checks to provide an increased police presence on Friday as an added precaution.

This situation serves as a good example of why it is important to avoid sharing posts online that refer to school safety threats. Even if they are not credible threats, they can cause a great deal of stress and anxiety for our students, families, and staff. We ask our families to monitor their children’s social media activity and speak with them about proper behavior online. Please remember that most social media websites restrict use to those 13 or older.

If you or your child become aware of any potential threat posted to social media or anywhere else, please notify your school administrator or me.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and support of our work. As we have learned these last many months, the best way to get through challenging times is by working together!

Sincerely,



Kelly M. Lyman
Superintendent of Schools