

LICKING HEIGHTS LOCAL SCHOOLS

6539 Summit Rd. SW, Pataskala, OH 43062

p. (740) 927-6926 | f. (740) 927-9043

RE: Friday Update for LH Schools

February 23, 2018

Dear Families:

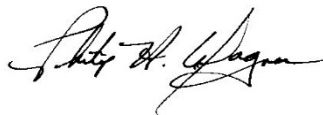
As we are approaching the weekend, I thought you would appreciate an update regarding what occurred within the district today. District and building staff met this morning with the Pataskala Police Department, who were on site to review safety protocol and gather information relevant to their investigation at Central Middle School. As such, Central Middle School will resume class Mon., Feb. 26 and all students will take part in an assembly discussing the power of words and the impact of one's conduct. We want to encourage empathy, compassion and open lines of communication among all students, staff and families. Furthermore, I assure you we would not hold school if a known, credible threat were substantiated, and our lockdown procedures cover all school district buildings.

Overall, today was an interesting day. As you may be aware, school districts throughout the state were inundated with copycat threats, including Licking Heights. As we move forward, we will continue to investigate any threats and I will reiterate that threats or hateful speech of any form against students or staff are taken seriously and will be investigated thoroughly in conjunction with local authorities. Additionally, we continue our commitment to implement disciplinary and corrective action in response to such misconduct.

As a reminder from what I shared yesterday, please talk with your children and give them the opportunity to share their feelings and concerns with you. Heightened feelings are natural when the threats are so widespread locally, as well as nationally. To aid these conversations, I have reattached the [guidance document from the National Association of School Psychologists](#) (NASP) regarding talking with children about violence. If you notice that your child is having trouble processing recent events or coping with their emotions, please reach out to your school counselor. They are equipped with resources to assist students in situations that seem overwhelming.

We remind our community that **if you see something, say something**. Students should report any suspicious activity to a parent, teacher or trustworthy adult. During school hours, parents should call their building's office and provide as much detail as possible. The SaferOH tip line (844-SaferOH/844-723-3764) is available 24 hours a day. Though social media allows for information to be shared quickly, it is not the way to make a report to the authorities. As always, if you have any questions, please contact us.

Sincerely,



Philip H. Wagner, Ph.D.
Superintendent