

Phillip Thompson, Ed.D.  
Division Superintendent



Haywood Hand  
Assistant Superintendent

February 28, 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I know that we are all saddened by the violence that continues to occur on school campuses across our nation. While safety will always be our top priority as we educate your children, these tragic events do cause all of us to reflect upon our safety procedures to ensure that we are doing all we can to keep students safe.

We are fortunate in Rockbridge County that we have not experienced a tragedy such as the one most recently in Florida. I know you will join me in hoping that we never will. Over the past few weeks, however, we have experienced a few instances in which students have made some careless and unfortunate comments. I would like to express to our entire community that when unfortunate incidents such as this occur, we will thoroughly investigate all comments and all threats. We will request the assistance of the local law enforcement when necessary, and we will take any appropriate disciplinary actions including legal action.

However, if it is determined that students are using careless and reckless words that convey actions that are never intended to be carried out, we ask for your trust and confidence that we will appropriately deal with the individuals involved. When unfortunate events such as this occur and typically involve a small number of students, we may not initiate a Honeywell announcement that could create unnecessary alarm when we are thoroughly convinced that there is no real threat to our students or our school.

Please be assured that if we feel there is ever a serious threat to the entire school or if a large portion of the student population has been impacted, we will inform parents.

Finally, I would ask that you have a meaningful conversation with your children to remind them that there is no place for threatening comments, even if they were not intended to be taken seriously. I have great respect for the fact that many of our families have long-held traditions of hunting and using fire arms in a safe, responsible manner. Unfortunately, we are living in a time when we cannot be too cautious when students use careless words or make idle threats. If you or your child should learn of any potential threat to safety and security in our schools, please immediately share that information with a school administrator or teacher.

With your assistance, we can provide a safe and secure learning environment that our students so desperately deserve. Thank you for your continued support of our schools.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Phillip Thompson'.

Phillip Thompson  
Division Superintendent