

February 28, 2018

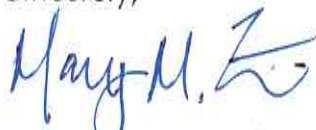
Dear students, parents, and community members:

I am writing to inform you that this afternoon, Otto Shortell Middle School received information that a student made threatening remarks about the school. Students reported the incident to administration after overhearing a conversation among students.

Administration was immediately notified, who in turn, conducted an internal investigation and contacted law enforcement. In conjunction with the Madison County Sherriff's Office and the New York State Police, we conducted a threat assessment/search and determined the threat to be not credible. Additionally, the building was deemed safe by law enforcement. Tomorrow, our School Resource Officer, Madison County Sherriff's Office, and safety team members will have an increased presence throughout the district. Classes will continue as normal on Thursday and counselors will be available for students. I applaud the students who made school administration aware of this incident, and I encourage everyone in our community that if you see something, say something.

As always, safety is a top priority within all of our schools and buildings in the Oneida City School District. Essential to this commitment is open communication with parents about safety issues when they arise. We would like to thank the Madison County Sherriff's Office and the New York State Police for all of their efforts in assisting with the investigation and keeping our students safe!

Sincerely,



Mary-Margaret Zehr
Superintendent