



# Miramar Police Department

*"A Nationally Accredited Agency Serving Our Community"*

**Dexter M. Williams, Chief of Police**



February 6, 2019

Dear Parents,

The Miramar Police Department responded to a threat made this week toward Glades Middle School students. Wednesday evening, numerous parents reported that their children received text messages advising of a shooting that would take place the next day. Out of an abundance of caution, we allocated more than a dozen officers to the school Thursday. A heightened police presence will be visible at our schools, while we continue to investigate this threat. I personally want to reassure students, faculty and staff that the safety of our children is our number one priority.

Tragically, almost one year ago, school safety was once again thrust into the national spotlight. As a nation, we galvanized efforts to create safer environments for our children. While we continue to work in improving this environment, we ask for your support. Unfortunately, across the United States, there has been a significant increase in threats. Although speaking with our children about safety issues should be year-round, now is a good time to have a serious conversation with them about threats of school violence.

The majority of these threats have proved not to be credible, after investigations have been conducted. Most students making threats have motives ranging from wanting to disrupt a school function to making the threat as a prank. They fail to realize that their actions can have devastating consequences, putting not only the public, but their lives at risk. Those making threats also fail to realize the loss of valuable law enforcement resources that could have been directed to solving or preventing other crimes, and the emotional distress caused to the entire community.

We recommend that you:

- Remind your child that any threat made will be thoroughly investigated and the consequences are severe, affecting more than just their education and future career choices, even if the child's intentions were to be humorous. Threats can come in the form of conversations, writings, emails, and/or social media posts using suggestive words or images.

- Be receptive to answering your child's questions and make sure they know the lines of communication with you and our department are open to discuss any aspect of a school threat.
- Monitor your child's social media accounts and talk to him/her about using social media responsibly.
- If you see something, say something: report any suspicious activity immediately. Do not forward or share the threat until the proper authorities have had a chance to investigate it. Doing so could cause panic or spread misinformation.

We applaud the students who came forward to report this situation and the parents who immediately contacted us. I also want to express my gratitude for your support of our officers and staff. We truly appreciate the trust you have given the Miramar Police Department in caring for your children

I am proud to represent a department that has always been committed to the safety and future of our children, having had a school resource officer (SRO) program for decades. We were the first agency in Broward County to provide full-time SROs at every public school. Today, our public and charter schools all benefit from the fundamental concept of the SRO program - having students and faculty interact with the same officers on a day-to-day basis, thus building trust and developing relationships with the youth of our community. Unfortunately, no school district is immune to threats or acts of violence. We must all remain vigilant.

Please remember that communication is key to working together effectively. Our partnership with you and your child is necessary to maintain safe schools for students, faculty and staff. Please follow-us on Twitter, Facebook and/or Instagram for additional safety information.

An honor to serve,



Dexter Williams  
Chief of Police  
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