



Pearl River School District

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Marco F. Pochintesta
Superintendent of Schools

October 23, 2018

Dear PRHS Students and Families,

I write to you to follow up on the issue of a student making threats against classmates that the HS became aware of on Tuesday, October 16th. Since that time the school administration and the Orangetown Police Department have followed up on all information brought forward with great care and diligence. As this work has gone forward, we have not learned any new information, and much of what has been shared with us is not factual, and is based on rumor.

I also want to address the comments about a lack of transparency in communication on this matter by the District. Parents have asked that we share information about the handling of this matter in terms of disciplinary consequences for the student as well as other personal information. There are limitations in communication on this subject that must be observed. A student's right to privacy is protected by Federal and State law. To comment on whether or not a student has been disciplined, or the extent to which a student has been disciplined is a violation of these laws. Our Board policy reflects this law and can be accessed at the following web address: https://boardpolicyonline.com/?b=pearl_river&s=52493

I realize that this may not help to reduce anxiety and concern for school safety. However, as I stated in my letter last week, this situation was taken very seriously in accordance with our Code of Conduct. **We have consistently acted with an abundance of caution and our schools are safe.** Our school resource officer, Officer Taylor, has been an active presence at PRHS since the first day of school and will continue to do so. I've been at Pearl River High School each day this week for the start of the day and I plan to be there tomorrow as well for an extended visit.

As always I am grateful for your support and understanding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marco F. Pochintesta".