

# Mount Vernon City Schools

Board of Education  
300 Newark Road  
Mount Vernon, OH 43050



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2/23/2018

Greetings Parents, Students, and Staff;

We believe it's important to keep an open line of communication with you in matters of student safety and school security. We became aware of a situation this morning at Mount Vernon Middle School where some inappropriate/threatening graffiti was found in a bathroom stall. Middle School administration and the district school resource officer were immediately notified. A threat assessment and investigation immediately commenced.

On a daily basis restroom stalls/walls are cleaned and examined. If inappropriate/threatening graffiti exists it is reported to administration and subsequently cleaned. This particular restroom was thoroughly cleaned and free of graffiti prior to the start of school today. This was particularly important as we were quickly able narrow down a short timeframe using security cameras to identify student(s) who entered the restroom.

Several students were immediately questioned with one of the students admitting to writing the inappropriate/threatening graffiti. After careful investigation, including a locker and book bag search, it was determined that the student actions were intended to induce panic.

As a district we will not tolerate any threats of violence to students or staff and will take the necessary steps to elevate such behaviors to the highest levels of discipline possible. The student in question was removed from the school premises and remanded to the custody of law enforcement.

While we live in challenging times, I am continually inspired by our students who want to partner with school staff and administration to make our schools a safer place. We would encourage all students to continue to champion the mantra of "See Something, Hear Something, Say Something".

In our continued efforts to provide a safe school environment, local law enforcement will be visiting our schools more often. On Monday, we have invited specially trained officers to the Middle School and High School to better familiarize themselves with the school surroundings.

Respectively yours,

William Seder Jr.

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