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OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

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Dear Parents,

The recent school shooting at Oxford High School on November 30th once again brings us face to face with the horror and tragedy of such an event. A 15 year old is facing murder charges with a handgun and both of his parents are charged with involuntary manslaughter. This was a terrifying and tragic day in the Oxford community and for citizens in the State of Michigan.

Naturally, this tragic case will cause students, parents, teachers and all school staff to worry about their own school and their own safety. Unfortunately, some students will seize upon this tragedy and see it as an opportunity to gain notoriety and thus, make threats against their own school, teachers and fellow students. Since November 30th, my Office has received reports from local law enforcement agencies of students using social media or other means to make threats against schools and their teachers and classmates. Many of these threats have turned out to be unfounded and made by students who claim they were just joking or thinking it was not a big deal.

I will be clear. Making threats to shoot up a school and its students and teachers is no joke. It is a serious matter and this behavior will not be tolerated.

The criminal charge of Terrorism is a 20 year felony crime. The Intentional Threat to Commit an Act of Violence against a School, School Employees or Students is a 10 year felony. Using a Computer to Commit a Crime is a 10 year felony. In addition to the consequences of punishment by the criminal justice system, students may suffer the loss of scholarships and federal aid, being denied college admission and employment opportunities because of being required to disclose pending cases or criminal convictions on job applications, and also being denied admission into the military.

I urge you to talk with your children about the appropriate use of social media and the lasting consequences of making threats against our schools. Please stress that there is nothing funny about threatening to shoot up a school. There is no such thing as a joke of threatening mass murder.

All threats will continue to be taken seriously and prosecuted to the fullest extent under the law.

Our children deserve safe schools. By working together, we can make this happen.

Respectfully,


Jerard M. Jarzynka
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