Bellette Bellette

Huntingdon Area School District

2400 Cassady Avenue, Suite 2 · Huntingdon, PA 16652 Phone: 814-643-4140

September 30, 2025

Dear Middle School Families,

Thank you for your feedback, questions, and request for additional information. I am providing additional information below, drawn from some of the questions I received, in an effort to help all parties involved. If, after reading this information, you still have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me directly.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ): School Safety Concern – September 29, 2025

1. What happened at the middle school on September 29th?

A concern was brought to the principal's attention regarding a student who was rumored to pose a threat to others. The school administration took the report seriously and immediately activated the district's threat assessment protocol to ensure the safety of all students and staff. All reported potential threats are taken seriously and investigated.

2. What steps were taken when the concern was reported?

- The student of concern was located and supervised in a secure location to ensure the safety of all students and staff.
- The School Resource Officer (SRO), a contracted employee of the Huntingdon Police Department, was present during the process.
- School operations continued safely and without disruption.
- The student's belongings were searched, and a handheld metal detector was used; no weapons or dangerous items were found.
- The student's locker was checked and secured
- The principal and administrative team conducted interviews with all parties involved, including the student of concern, classmates, and staff members.
- Administrators gathered information from multiple sources to verify facts and timelines.
- The SRO and administration reviewed any available digital communication or social media references related to the concern, and none were found.
- No credible threat or evidence of harmful intent was discovered.
- The building was checked and cleared early Tuesday morning by the Huntingdon Borough Police to ensure that no risk was present in all areas of the school, allowing for a return on Tuesday.



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3. Was there any actual danger to students?

No. After a thorough and structured investigation, there were **no weapons**, **no evidence of a plan or intent to cause harm**, and **no credible threat** identified. The information was found to be **based on hearsay and rumors**, rather than facts. Social media posts unaffiliated with the district suggested there was a list of students and guns at that school. This was not true information.

4. How were students informed about the concern?

- The Superintendent visited 7th and 8th-grade classrooms throughout the day on Monday to explain the situation, answer student questions, and reinforce safety procedures.
- Students were encouraged to focus on factual information and to avoid spreading rumors.
- A follow-up grade-level meeting was held with all grade levels and teachers to review the facts on Tuesday

5. What should families and students do if they hear about a possible threat in the future?

Always **report concerns immediately** to a school administrator, teacher, or law enforcement. You can also submit information anonymously through the **Safe2Say Something** system:

https://www.safe2saypa.org/

Sincerely,

Jennifer Mitchell

Jennifer Mitchell Superintendent