



Preparing today's students for tomorrow's world.

September 13, 2024

**Dear Monroe County Intermediate School District Community,**

I hope this message finds you and your families well. As we continue our mission of providing a nurturing environment where all students can thrive academically and socially, it is crucial that we address an issue that has always been, and remains, one of our highest priorities: the safety and security of our schools.

### **The Importance of School Safety**

The safety of our students, staff, and visitors is fundamental to achieving our educational goals. A safe school environment fosters learning, growth, and well-being. It allows students to focus on their studies, and teachers to concentrate on their important work without fear or distraction. As a community, we must remain vigilant and proactive in maintaining this safety. Every child who walks through our doors deserves to feel secure, supported, and protected.

### **Responding to Recent Threats**

Recently, there have been threats in and around Monroe County that remind us of the unpredictable and often unsettling times we live in. School districts treat each threat with the utmost seriousness. School districts in Monroe County work closely with law enforcement, safety experts, and school security personnel to assess, investigate, and respond to any potential risks. It is our commitment that we always prioritize the well-being of our students and staff, taking necessary measures to ensure that no threat goes unchecked.

### **Proactive Measures**

To further strengthen our safety protocols, we will continue to engage in the following efforts:

- **Enhanced Security Measures:** We are regularly evaluating our security systems, including surveillance cameras, secure entry points, and communication systems, to ensure they are up to date and functioning effectively.
- **Crisis Preparedness Training:** Our staff participates in ongoing training to ensure they are prepared to respond swiftly and appropriately in the event of an emergency.
- **Student Education:** We are committed to fostering a culture of awareness and responsibility among students by educating them on the importance of reporting suspicious behavior or concerns to trusted adults.

### **Community Collaboration**

While we are confident in these safety protocols, we know that we need the support of the entire community to protect the children we are privileged to serve. Thus, we would ask that you speak to your children and urge them to reach out to school or law enforcement officials directly or through the State of Michigan's Okay2Say tip line at 8-555-OK2SAY or [OKAY2SAY@mi.gov](mailto:OKAY2SAY@mi.gov) if they hear of any potentially dangerous situations. We also ask all parents to remind their children about the importance of responsible social media use.

### **Our Commitment to You**

We understand that threats to school safety can cause anxiety and fear within the community. Please rest assured that we are doing everything within our power to protect our students and staff, and that we remain committed to providing a safe and secure learning environment.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Together, we can create a safe space where our students can learn, grow, and succeed.

Sincerely,

Dr. Stephen J. McNew, Superintendent

