



Coatesville Area School District

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3030 C.G. Zinn Rd. Thorndale, PA 19372 | casdschools.org | 610-466-2400

October 13, 2022 | 4:30 PM

Dear CASD Parents, Students, and Community Members,

Today we received three separate Safe2Say tips from the Attorney General's Office all referencing a weapon that may be used in an act of violence. Those tips indicated a time and a location. Our administrative team and the CASD police department immediately investigated these reports and contacted other municipal police department leaders for support.

This morning the high school campus was put on restricted movement, then as additional threats came in, the campus was moved to a lockdown out of an abundance of precaution. The Chester County Sheriff's Department was sent to the campus and conducted a search for weapons, with support from officers from multiple law enforcement agencies and a canine unit. No weapons were found, and everyone was safely dismissed. Some officers remained on the scene to help support students whose transportation plans were disrupted.

As we responded to today's incident, we followed protocols established in our district crisis plan. During incidents like this, movement in schools must be restricted until the building is deemed safe.

We want to thank the CASD Police Department, the Caln Township Police Department, the Coatesville City Police Department, and the Chester County Sheriff's Department for their support in handling today's crisis. We also want to thank the local fire departments and the fire police who helped maintain a presence in coordinating our reaction to this crisis. We are also very grateful to our Krapf bus drivers, teachers, and support staff, not only at CASH and CAISH but also at Scott 6th Grade Center, as well as our district administrators for their efforts in supporting us during this event. I especially want to thank the student body at CASH and CAISH for their behavior, patience, and understanding in dealing with this event.

Safety is always our priority, and we thoroughly investigate every tip or threat that is received – either via our Safe2Say line, on email, or through social media posts. We work closely with our CASD Police as well as other local law enforcement agencies. We have placed some of our schools in a "restricted movement" mode over the last two weeks so we can conduct a thorough investigation. This is not meant to alarm anyone, but rather to ensure we are diligently protecting the safety of our schools.

The vast majority of tips/threats received do not result in violence, and it appears an increasing number are meant to be disruptive. Nevertheless, again, it is our duty and promise that we will thoroughly investigate each one.

Parents and caregivers, please talk with your children about the importance of not making false threats. We recommend that you monitor each child's social media activity as much as possible, as well.

At the same time, we appreciate our students reporting threats of violence or concerns about a peer's safety, and ask that they continue to use our [Safe2Say line](#), or, speak with a trusted staff member.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Richard F. Dunlap, Jr., Ed. D.
Interim Superintendent
Coatesville Area School District

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