



# Coatesville Area School District

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3030 C.G. Zinn Rd. Thorndale, PA 19372 | [casdschools.org](http://casdschools.org) | 610-466-2400

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October 17, 2022 | 5:00 PM

Dear Parents and Coatesville Employees,

Today we had another Safe2Say message that indicated an accelerant was placed in CASH. Both buildings on the campus were placed in restrictive movement. The local Police, the Chester County Emergency Services, the District Attorney, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms were consulted. The County Fire Marshal asked for special support from agencies, including the Maryland State Police, to assist with dogs that could detect accelerants. The County Assistant Fire Marshal advised us to evacuate the building. When the students were dismissed from the building, they had to leave their bookbags in the classrooms to be searched by the dogs. The bookbags were secured in the rooms where the students had their last class.

The students were moved from the building to the stadium and the plan was to move the students into the gymnasium in the 8-9 building after all of the dogs arrived. After approximately sixty minutes in the stadium, a series of fights broke out between different groups of students. Additional emergency units had to be called in to secure the stadium and the students. The situation in the stadium was stabilized after a heavy police presence.

While the dogs were searching the CASH building and the students were in the stadium, we received an additional Safe2Say message for weapons in the senior high school and CAIHS. We then had to put the Intermediate High School in a lockdown.

All students were dismissed and not permitted to return to the school.

Tomorrow all classes on the campus will be cancelled. All CASH, CAIHS, and campus administrative staff are to report to work tomorrow. Building administrators will follow up with a plan for tomorrow for staff. We will have a mental health team and a trauma team on board to help support our staff tomorrow.

We continue to be extremely frustrated with these disruptions and are talking with multiple authorities about how best to continue to address them.

Sincerely,

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

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**Interim Superintendent: Richard F. Dunlap Jr., Ed. D.**