



# OXFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## *Office of the Superintendent of Schools*

November 8, 2018

Dear Parents,

As many of you know, public schools reflect the larger issues which we face in our society. One of the issues facing families and students is the use, for good or bad, of social media. Social media can be a great tool to keep in contact with family and friends. However, social media can also be a forum where individuals feel they have immunity and engage in words or behaviors which they would never do facing another person.

Having children understand and navigate the complexities of today's society is challenging. When you add social media into the mix, situations become more complicated. Our children need to know that you cannot say anything inappropriate, or make a threat, even in jest. Lashing out on social media and venting emotions is not an appropriate forum. When situations occur, where children use social media as a tool to display their emotional dysregulation, they do not always think about the consequences of their actions.

Please be aware that when a threat is made against a school, another student, or staff member, we are obligated to investigate the situation. These investigations include our Police Department. Determinations of a threat being credible or not credible occurs in consultation with our safety officials.

If a threat is found to be credible then the school would immediately follow established safety protocols. If a threat is found not to be credible, the school as well as the Police Department takes appropriate action based on a threat made against the school. In either circumstance, a student who engages in such behavior will have school, and possibly legal, consequences.

I ask that you please speak with your children about their appropriate use of social media. I also ask that you encourage your child to inform the school administration immediately when they have received, or viewed a threat on social media even if it is not directed towards them. We all need to work together to ensure that your children are safe, so that positive learning, academically and socially, can happen.

Sincerely,

*Dr. Liz*

Elizabeth Zielinski, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools