

*A Joint Message From . . .*



*Engage. Inspire. Prepare.*



PAULDING COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
GARY GULLEDGE, SHERIFF

September 9, 2024

Dear PCSD Parents/Guardians,

Following the tragic school shooting incident in Barrow County last week, it is understandable there is a heightened concern for school safety in our community. That incident has resulted in a rash of threat-related issues at schools across Georgia, including posts of alleged “lists” of schools to be targeted next. In many cases these posts have originated in other counties, or even out of state. In some cases, when students have seen these posts, they have shared them on social media platforms and discussed them among friends leading to rumors and confusion in their school communities.

A similar issue arose this morning when a student made a comment on a school bus about an online post that allegedly included the student’s school on a target list. The student had not seen such a list, but merely had heard there was a post on social media. The bus driver reported this information, and the rumor quickly spread to multiple schools throughout our county. There is no evidence that such a post ever existed.

The Paulding County School District and Paulding County Sheriff’s Office want you to know that we take all of these concerns seriously and we use our extensive resources to investigate every issue, which includes communication with state and federal agencies. **While some lists have circulated online, including some that may mention Paulding County schools, these posts have been investigated and at this time there are no substantiated threats to student and staff safety at any Paulding County school.** We assure you that we will notify you immediately should there ever be a substantiated safety concern regarding a Paulding County school.

We encourage students and parents to not circulate unsubstantiated messages of this nature on social media, but to instead report anything that may be interpreted as a safety threat to the [Vector Alert System](#), a teacher or administrator, or the [Paulding County Sheriff's Office](#). **We also want to remind students that making a threat to student and staff safety, whether verbal or online, in school or out of school – regardless of intent – will result in extremely serious consequences from both law enforcement and according to school district policy.**

Our School Resource Deputies, School Safety Officers, and School Safety Coordinators work with students in our schools daily to ensure a safe learning environment, and our school district works closely with the Paulding County Sheriff’s Office on all matters of safety that affect our schools. Reporting this type of information directly to authorities will ensure the matter is addressed immediately and with the best available resources.

Thank you for your support as we work together to keep our schools the safest possible learning environments for our students, staff and community.

Sincerely,

Steve Barnette  
Superintendent

Gary Gullledge  
Sheriff