

August 10, 2010

Dear CHS Parents and Staff,

For the second time in almost as many weeks, I need to let you know about some unfortunate information involving our school.

Late Thursday evening, we were contacted by a parent and student who told us a Central High student had posted disturbing comments on the Internet. We immediately contacted the Chesterfield Police Department, who took the student into custody after discovering several potential threats to our school and students. The student has not been attending school at Central since last spring.

Obviously we are very troubled by this, as I am sure you are. We take every comment of a threatening nature seriously, and will not tolerate behaviors that might disrupt the school learning environment. We are continuing to work with the police, and will let you know if we have any reason for additional concern.

As we head into the new school year, I would like to take this opportunity to reassure you that there are many safeguards in place at Central High to protect your children and our teachers. We have many adults supervising students who are trained to observe unusual behavior. We have security officers on hand to offer advice and assistance. We have open and frequent communication with law enforcement and the court system about student behavior when they are not in school. All these, and many more, help us to be alert to potential problems. But none are as important or as effective as the relationships we foster every day among our students, faculty and parents.

At school, we teach students that it is each individual's responsibility to help care for the community as a whole. I am sure you do the same at home. In this situation, the system worked and I am grateful to our student and parent for letting us know about a potentially dangerous situation. I would also like to thank Parkway's Security Office and the Chesterfield Police Department for their swift action.

Please call me with any concerns or questions you may have. Absolutely nothing is more important to us than the safety of our students and staff.

Sincerely,

Tim Gannon  
Principal