

A message from the Chippewa Falls School District

Dear Families,

A few concerned community members have contacted our District about a situation that occurred several months ago involving one of our students at the middle school. We have also been contacted by two online media outlets about the student.

We would like to make an important matter clear: At no time were any of our students at risk or in harm's way, thanks to our middle school staff's dedicated efforts. Our staff is trained to be alert to threats, issues, rumors, unusual behavior, and countless other matters that may impact on school safety. They strive to be proactive and intervene before problems can take hold, fester, and become far more serious. They do so selflessly and with the best interests of our children at heart. This is how our staff approached the situation that developed at our middle school last fall.

As everyone knows, a school district is prohibited under state and federal law from providing personally identifiable information about student discipline. We appreciate parents' concern and frustration that, at times, we cannot share as much information as we would like; we can only hope that our community will understand that we must follow the law and, if you think about it, almost any parent would want us to use the utmost discretion if it was about their child. At the very least, issues that involve student safety and welfare should not be sensationalized.

What we can say is that our staff protects our parents' children as if they were their own. We can never be sure, but there is a strong possibility that our middle school staff prevented a concern from becoming a tragedy. We are grateful to them and hope you will applaud their efforts.

All our children have a right to attend our public schools. It is our job to teach them, but we also must participate in addressing students' behavior and in other matters that contribute to that behavior to keep our students and staff safe. We touch every kind of social, economic, personal, and health problem (mental and physical) our children have, from pre-kindergarten to adulthood. As a result, when we have more difficult or potentially dangerous situations, we always make parents aware of them and we address them confidentially, but successfully.

Thank you for taking the time to read our comments. Please understand that all that can be shared surrounding this matter has been shared.

Sincerely,

Jeff Holmes, Superintendent
Derrick Kunsman, CFMS Principal