

Risk/Threat Assessment Notification

September 1, 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians:

School District 63 (Saanich) is committed to providing safe learning environments for all students, staff, school visitors and community members. When students behave inappropriately, principals use progressive discipline to help students take responsibility for their actions, change their behaviour, and learn from their mistakes.

When student behaviours pose a potential threat to safety or serious harm, Saanich School District's Community Threat Assessment Protocol helps principals take further steps to protect student well-being. The protocol helps students respond quickly to threatening incidents such as:

- possession of a weapon or replica weapon
- bomb threat or plan
- verbal, written or electronic (internet, text) threats to kill or injure oneself or others
- fire setting
- other threats of violence

The Community Threat Assessment Protocol outlines how a school immediately responds to threatening behaviour. Principals may first bring together the School Safety Team which includes the principal/vice-principal, school staff members and police. If the situation is serious, the principal may also consult with District personnel and call in the Community Threat Assessment Team. This team includes representatives of community agencies who work with us to keep our schools safe, such as the Vancouver Island Health Authority and Child and Family Services. Parents and guardians will be notified in advance if their child will be discussed through the Community Threat Assessment protocol. If parents/guardians cannot be reached, or if they choose not to provide consent, but a concern for safety still exists due to threatening behaviour, the threat assessment may still proceed. Personal information shared throughout this process will respect and balance each individual's right to privacy with the need to ensure the safety of all.

As always, student safety is our first priority. If you have any questions regarding the Saanich School District Community Threat Assessment Protocol, please contact Peter Westhaver, Director of Instruction at 250-652-7322.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Eberwein", with a horizontal line underneath.

Dave Eberwein
Superintendent of Schools

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