

460 absent from HF-L schools after threat

Safety

No problems reported as police show presence

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About 60 percent of the students at Honeoye Falls-Lima High School were absent Friday after a threat of a school shooting was written on a boys bathroom wall earlier this week.

According to the Honeoye Falls-Lima Central School District, 460 of the high school's 768 registered students did not attend school on Friday.

It was a quiet afternoon in Honeoye Falls, so much so that neighbor Kathy Adams who lives across the street

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from the school campus noticed. Other than the extra sheriff's cars, and the quiet, it seemed like a typical day.

Down West Main Street steady business flowed into the Honeoye Falls Marketplace and Rucks Pizza Kitchen at about lunchtime.

Among the patrons was one of the absent students, 19-year-old senior Garrett Ruff, who said he "just wanted to be careful."

District officials learned of the threat from other high school students on Wednesday and reported it to police. Monroe County sheriff's deputies and school officials are speaking with students they believe may have been involved in the incident.

Since the threat, Ruff said his classmates have been on edge.

In an email statement, district spokeswoman Leah Shea said Superintendent Gene Mancuso believed the absences were related to the threat.

In all, about 45 percent of the 2,212 students enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade at Honeoye Falls-Lima Central School District were absent on Friday. A total of 976 Honeoye Falls students, nearly half of whom attend the high school, were absent. Mancuso did note that approximately 150 of the absent teens were not in school due to several school-related trips. Kevin Mallaber, 31 and his wife have an elementary student in the district. They were comfortable sending their child to school on Friday. He said "it seemed like the school had a good grip" on the situation, and he was satisfied by how the district was handling things so far.

But, “it’s kinda (crappy) that we have to worry about things like this,” he said. Others in Honeoye Falls said it’s understandable that fear kept some families away from school on Friday. Judi Ferman, who has grandchildren in the district, said she was worried enough to call her daughter-in-law when she heard about the threat. She doesn’t fault anyone who stayed at home.

“What’s one day compared to ‘Oh my God I should have?’” Judi Ferman said.

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