

Threat at Honeoye Falls-Lima High School draws concern

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Rochester Democrat and Chronicle USA TODAY NETWORK

A threat written on the wall of a boys bathroom at Honeoye Falls-Lima High School has the Monroe County Sheriff's Office boosting its presence at the school.

District Superintendent Gene Mancuso said district officials on Wednesday alerted high school students and their parents about a threat that a shooting could take place at the school on Friday. The alert came shortly after they learned about the handwritten note.

District officials on Thursday alerted all community members who live within the school district about the threat, Mancuso said.

"Any and all school threats are taken seriously by law enforcement officers," Monroe County Sheriff Todd Baxter said in a news release. Mancuso, speaking at a midafternoon news conference, said that school officials and deputies must consider the threat to be credible and prepare accordingly.

News of the reported threat sparked concern among district parents on social media, prompting many to question whether it was safe for their children to attend school this week.

Mancuso said some students did not attend school on Thursday, potentially because of the threat, but he could not cite absentee figures.

Nearly 2,200 students attend Honeoye Falls-Lima schools, including 768 high school students, said district spokeswoman Leah Shea.

District officials learned of the threat from other high school students on Wednesday and reported the threat to police, Mancuso said. Deputies and school officials are speaking with students they believe may have been involved in the incident.

The threat of gun violence within a school could potentially mean expulsion for any involved student, Mancuso said.

An undisclosed number of deputies were at the high school Thursday and will return on Friday, said Capt. Paul DeLella of the Monroe County Sheriff's Office. Deputies on hand are trained and prepared to handle whatever situation unfolds, he said.

"It's a generic threat, but we have to be prepared for anything," DeLella said.

Mancuso said that on Friday, all schools on the Honeoye Falls-Lima main campus on Church Street would be placed on lockout during the school day and that entry to the high school will be restricted.

"We're not going to let threats stop us," Mancuso said. "We will be extra vigilant tomorrow."

People with information about the threat are asked to call the District Office at (585) 624-7000.

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