

UNATEGO CENTRAL SCHOOL

PO BOX 483
2641 STATE HIGHWAY 7
OTEGO, NEW YORK 13825-9795
www.unatego.org
FAX (607) 988-1039

Dr. David S. Richards
Superintendent of Schools
(607) 988-5038

Patricia Loker
Business Manager
(607) 988-5038

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From the Superintendent:

Recent events in Florida have served to heighten awareness of school safety issues and parents, students, and staff are understandably concerned. Since last week, several area schools have received threats and they, along with local law enforcement, have dealt with them in an appropriate manner. Although we have fortunately been spared from these recent threats, I want to assure you that safety remains a top priority here at Unatego.

We continue to lock exterior doors when school is in session and all visitors must use a secure, single point-of-entry. We have multiple security cameras in our buildings to monitor suspicious activity and we routinely engage in various emergency drills. These include both on and off campus evacuations, lockouts and lockdowns, and shelter in place and hold in place exercises. Our Emergency Management and Safety Plans are updated annually, and are based on best practices and in consultation with law enforcement and first responders. We provide training to our staff on a regular basis, most recently this past Friday. Moreover, we are always looking for ways to make our schools safer places.

We continue to maintain positive relationships with the New York State Police and the Otsego County Sheriff's Department, and law enforcement officers frequently visit our buildings and are encouraged to do so. We have and will continue to err on the side of caution and take all threats seriously and investigate them thoroughly, in conjunction with law enforcement if indicated. As always, if you or your children hear of a threat, it is critically important for you to let someone know.

These are scary times for many of us as we deal with issues relating to violence, mental health, and substance abuse. Schools should be a place where all our students can be safe. Rest assured that we take your concerns seriously and are doing all that we can to ensure the safety of all our students and staff. Don't hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns. We hope you will all continue to partner with us to ensure that our schools remain safe havens for our children.

Sincerely,



Dr. David S. Richards
Superintendent of Schools