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Dr. JONATHAN D. RUSS
Superintendent

Superintendent Update – December 16, 2021

Dear Students, Staff, Parents, and Community:

Botetourt County Public Schools has become aware of a troubling TikTok post that has been shared widely this week referring to a threat to school safety “for every school in the USA, even elementary,” on Friday, December 17.

The post appears to be part of a national TikTok trend and did not originate in our school division. While we do not believe the threat to be credible, we are closely monitoring the situation and taking it seriously. I would like to invite parents and guardians to have candid conversations with your children about appropriate social media usage. Although a student may not intend to do harm, reposting or circulating threatening information may carry severe consequences and result in disciplinary action. These types of posts cause significant alarm, often lead to extensive investigations, and disrupt the learning environment.

If you or your child become aware of any potential threat posted to social media or anywhere else, please notify a school staff member or trusted adult right away. As an added precaution, we have been in contact with the Botetourt County Sheriff’s Office and may have an increased police presence in our buildings on Friday, December 17.

Thank you for your partnership as we work to ensure a safe, secure, and positive learning environment for our students and staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan D. Russ". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial 'J'.

Jonathan D. Russ, Ed.D.
Superintendent