



Victory Preparatory School

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Dear Parent/Guardian:

September 16, 2024

With a new school year beginning, Victory Preparatory School is encouraging all parents/guardians to have a conversation with your school-age children regarding an issue that has become all too prevalent, namely threats to commit school violence.

As periodic school shootings have become an unfortunate reality across the country, these incidents are naturally publicized in the news and social media. Experience has taught us that the publicity of these school shooting events often prompts a small subset of students to make similar type threats against their schools, teachers, and/or fellow classmates. In many of these cases, the student who made the threat tells investigators that they were "just joking" and seem genuinely shocked by how serious the consequences are for making the threat. Often they make the threat thinking that it is not a big deal as long as they did not plan to actually carry it out. Florida Law, however, makes it a crime to make a threat, even if the person making the threat did not have the intent or the capability of actually carrying it out.

When a threat is made, we cannot immediately know whether the threat is a serious threat, or whether the threat is meant to be a so-called prank. Therefore, we must take every threat seriously, because to not do so would be to put your child at risk and the community at risk, and we simply cannot take that chance. We take these cases extremely seriously, not only because of the need to keep your child and the community safe, but also because of the disruption of the school environment and the significant expenditure of resources by the school and by law enforcement that even a "prank" threat causes.

We had an incident today at Victory Preparatory School that was investigated and was found not to be a serious threat. With that said we have reached out to the St. Johns County resource officer to arrange a time to come in and speak to the student body and share the severity of the situation. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and for working with V.P.S. to keep your children and our community safe.

Sincerely,

Erin S. Gibson

Executive Director