

Gateway School District



Dear Families,

Over the last several weeks and months, school districts across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania have experienced false reports of shootings and threats of violence. These hoax "Safe to Say" calls are known as "swatting."

Today, May 5, 2023, Gateway High School received a "Safe to Say" anonymous tip alleging gun violence at the high school. "Safe to Say" authorities quickly determined this threat to be a hoax, based on other school districts and schools across Pennsylvania receiving the same text message through the "Safe to Say" app. A message was quickly communicated to students and staff that a "swatting" incident had been reported.

Soon after the initial "Safe to Say" incident was received, another threat was communicated through the "Safe to Say" app. This veiled threat only included information that *"a bomb has been placed in the school."* The Gateway High School administration evacuated the building, sending staff and students to the football field, while Monroeville Police quickly called upon resources to sweep the building. Students were then dismissed from the field when buses arrived.

Monroeville Police and various law enforcement agencies conducted a thorough search of the building and found no "bomb" or explosive device. As with every incident, Gateway School District must take the necessary precautions, regardless of the nature of the threat.

Furthermore, local law enforcement agencies are currently assisting the "Safe to Say" authorities with identifying the IP address and determining the individual who submitted this hoax.

Monroeville Police will work with the Gateway High School administration in prosecuting to the fullest extent of the law, if and when the individual is identified.

In closing, I wish to thank the Monroeville Police, Gateway School District Police, along with the students and staff of Gateway High School who handled themselves in an orderly manner while dealing with this unnecessary disruption to the educational process.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Short".

Dr. William Short