

Hello parents,

This week we have noted a disturbing trend in our schools which has led to multiple lockdowns and interrupted valuable instructional time. Instances of students posting threats on social media or verbally discussing phony or real threats of violence have spiked. Threats of any kind of violence at schools are taken seriously as we do all that we can to keep students safe. Even when these threats are made in jest, it is **ILLEGAL** and students will be prosecuted by law enforcement and punished according to district policy, including suspension and/or expulsion from school.

**We need your help!** Parents, please check your student's smartphone or other devices and look for any of the following social media platforms: Snapchat, Instagram or TikTok.

If your child is utilizing these platforms, please discuss with them responsible use and monitor their use. **If you are unable to monitor your child's social media use, please consider restricting access to it.** Responsible use includes not posting fake or real threats, not recirculating those threats and reporting knowledge of threats immediately to a trusted adult.

We encourage witnesses of threats to come forward so authorities can investigate and extinguish them immediately. If a threat is brought to your attention, we ask that you please report it immediately to law enforcement and/or school administrators so it can be investigated.

If you or your child is uncomfortable sharing information with an authority, we recommend use of the SafeUT app for anonymous reporting. The app can be downloaded here: <https://safeut.med.utah.edu/>

Together we can keep our students safe and return to doing what we do best: Educating the next generation. Remember, if you see something, say something. Thank you for working with us to help students feel safe in their schools.