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Dr. Devon Q. Horton, Superintendent

September 6, 2024

Dear DeKalb County Families,

The tragic events at Apalachee High School in Barrow County this week have deeply impacted us all. We continue to extend our deepest condolences to the loved ones of the fallen and injured.

Unfortunately, some have taken advantage of this grief to spread fear through threatening social media posts targeting several schools in DeKalb County and across metro Atlanta. While we have received numerous reports of threatening social media posts, no credible threats have been found against any DCSD schools. Despite this, we take every threat seriously, and investigations are ongoing with support from the FBI, GBI, and local law enforcement.

Already, a 14-year-old has been arrested, and a 12-year-old has been issued a summons for contributing to these threats in DeKalb County. We must work together to prevent more unlawful behavior and consequences like these. To that end, I ask that all families actively monitor their children's behavior and online activity.

These simple steps can make all the difference:

- Check your child's bookbag and familiarize yourself with their social media accounts.
- Monitor their electronic device usage and browser history.
- Encourage them to report any suspicious activity to school officials.
- Discuss the severe consequences of making threats, even as a joke.

Additionally, the National Association of School Psychologists offers these tips:

- Make time to talk and answer your child's questions.
- Review safety procedures and correct any misinformation.
- Limit exposure to media coverage of violent events.

Please contact your child's school if you need more information, support, or resources. Together, we can ensure our students' safety, well-being, and productive growth.

Sincerely,

Dr. Devon Q. Horton
Superintendent