



Unified in a commitment to inspire and to empower resilient, lifelong learners.

WESTMONT HILLTOP SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

Westmont Hilltop School District is committed to the safety and security of our students, faculty, staff, and administration, as well as our surrounding community. A serious situation was avoided due to quick action of concerned parents, secondary school administration, and the Upper Yoder Police Department. It is important that you understand what has happened, what the school district is doing, and what will happen next week.

The investigation included the Department of Homeland Security, ATF, FBI, U.S. Attorney's Office, the Cambria County District Attorney's Office, and the Johnstown Police Department. Currently, both suspects are in custody facing multiple felony charges as adults, and authorities confirmed with me that these are the only two suspects.

District leadership is in constant communication and evaluating the situation to ensure continued preventative safety measures are in place. To this end, classes will be in session on Monday, with an increased police presence in both school buildings. Chief Don Hess confirmed that he will be on site at the high school, and an Upper Yoder police officer will be available throughout the week to assist at the secondary school.

Additionally, counselors will be available to listen and help students experiencing anxiety or concerns regarding the incident. We are grateful to the parent who alerted the district of a potential situation. Our Safe2Say program is accepted, necessary, and can save lives. We all have a responsibility for the safety of our schools.

As more information becomes available, I will continue communicating with you.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Mitchell

GO HILLTOPPERS!

An Equal Opportunity Employer

It is the policy of the Westmont Hilltop School District not to discriminate in employment or program services for reasons of race, color, sex, age, religion, national origin, or handicapping condition.