

Clarity on Verbal Threats

In the interest of insuring that North Kossuth Community School is a safe place for everyone, threats will be taken seriously. Please read and discuss the information on this page with your student, then sign and return the attached form.

1. The rules have changed. Threats are no joking matter!

The rules and expectations have changed regarding use of language related to threats of violence. In the past if someone said, "I am going to get a gun and shoot those teachers and students who give me a hard time," it may have been treated as a joke or an idle threat. Due to violent incidents in schools, statements of this type will now be taken seriously.

This change in rules is similar to increased security in airports. Not long ago, security screening did not take place in airports. Now if someone jokingly states, "there might be a bomb in my bag," the very least that will happen is that the person will be detained and interviewed and probably miss his/her flight. In addition, the person and his/her luggage will probably be searched more thoroughly and invasively than would otherwise occur. It is quite possible that the person's name will be passed along to other law enforcement agencies and he/she may even be arrested and prosecuted.

"I was only joking," is not a reasonable explanation or defense. This type of comment will be treated as seriously in our school, as in an airport.

2. The types of behavior that will be considered threatening include:

- Stating that you have a weapon or bomb in your possession at school.
- Stating that you plan to bring a weapon or bomb to school.
- Stating that you plan to cause physical harm to a student or staff member.
- Making a false statement that there is a bomb or other destructive device at school.
- Any written or verbal indication that you intend to damage person or property.

3. In addition to parental notification, possible outcomes/consequences that could be imposed for issuing a threat include:

Further investigation by school personnel.
Detention
Suspension
Expulsion
Further investigation by law enforcement agencies
Prosecution for: Disorderly Conduct, Criminal Mischief, Menacing

Student and parent – Sign the form below to indicate that you have read, discussed and understand the "Clarity of Verbal Threats." Return the form to your classroom teacher or the office.

Clarity on Verbal Threats

We have read and discussed the information about "Clarity on Verbal Threats." We understand the outcomes/consequences that could be imposed for issuing a threat.

Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Student Signature _____