

MT. BLUE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

CHESTERVILLE – FARMINGTON – INDUSTRY – NEW SHARON – NEW VINEYARD – STARKS – TEMPLE – VIENNA – WELD – WILTON

227 MAIN STREET, FARMINGTON, ME 04938

Phone (207) 778-6571 | Fax (207) 778-4160

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TO: RSU 9 Families & Staff
FROM: Christian M. Elkington
RE: Today's "Swatting" event involving Mt. Blue Campus
DATE: 11-5-2024

As shared earlier today, Mt. Blue Campus (MBC) was involved in a hoax that first started in other Maine counties involving a potential threat to "shoot up" several different schools in Maine this morning. The Farmington Police Department was notified by the Veteran's Emergency Hotline a little before 1 pm today that a subject had reached out via electronic communication stating that they were going to MBC with a rifle to shoot people at the school. Farmington Police immediately contacted the school administration to report the possible threat. Police and fire department units were immediately dispatched to MBC.

Having been informed of the earlier threats to other Maine schools, the RSU 9 Administrative Team had discussed some potential scenarios if one of our schools became involved. Upon hearing from the Farmington PD and reviewing the situation and evidence, we immediately determined that we would do a hold in place, stationing admin around the MBC complex, as we waited for the police to arrive. We felt, with the information we had, this would be the safest way to keep any potential threat outside of our building while not adding anxiety to those inside if, in all probability, it was indeed a hoax. With Farmington PD, we searched our grounds for anyone suspicious. After this initial decision, we decided to institute lockouts in all other RSU 9 Schools to increase our safety precautions.

The staff, students, and administration of Mt. Blue Campus are to be congratulated for their calm demeanor and excellent follow-through with the following of our safety precautions and procedures! Events like this are meant to cause confusion and terror to many people. Because we consider safety our # 1 priority, sending RSU 9 staff to training and practicing multiple drills, our staff and students are prepared when situations arise.

Fortunately, we have responsive and supportive police and fire departments in RSU 9! **Thanks go to everyone who assisted us with today's event!**

A couple of FYIs:

- **Swatting** is the making of a hoax communication to report serious crimes to emergency services. People who carry out a "swatting" prank aim to fool emergency services into sending a Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team to respond to the supposed emergency.
- **Hold in Place** - Students and staff remain in their classrooms, and no one is permitted in or out of the building.
- **Lockouts** - No one is permitted in or out of the building.
- **All the messages** across the state came from the same internet address in France.

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