



# LUDINGTON AREA SCHOOLS

## OJ DEJONGE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Michael Hart  
Principal

Abby Schaperkotter  
Assistant Principal

Brent Gillett  
Athletic Director

J.R. Schoon  
Dean of Students

May 9, 2024

Dear Oriole Students and Families:

The Ludington Police Department was made aware of a vague threat against O.J. DeJonge Middle School during the evening of May 8, 2024. This threat was made via the social media app Snapchat, and the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) was informed of this threat from Snapchat who relayed this message to local law enforcement.

The Ludington Police Department immediately informed O.J. DeJonge Middle School administration and a full investigation has taken place. Through the investigation, the police department has identified the source of the threat. The police department and school district collaborated with Lake Michigan Carferry service to use their explosive-detection canine unit to check the building and during the inspection no threats to the safety of the school were found. Both the school district and the Ludington Police Department are extremely grateful for the Lake Michigan Carferry service to allow for us to use their canines in ensuring the safety of our students and community.

Based on the police investigation and search of the school building, it has been determined that there is no credible threat to the safety of our school community.

Social media threats will continue to be treated seriously by both the school and local law enforcement. Making threats of this nature can result in serious consequences with law enforcement, up to and including felony criminal charges. School consequences can also be levied when a threat is made against a school.

It is important that families understand social media use by their children. [Common Sense Media](#) is a wonderful resource for families in helping their children navigate social media in a safe manner.

Thank you,

Michael Hart  
Principal