

## **George County Schools**

494 Cowart Street • Lucedale, MS 39452 601-947-6993 • Fax: 601-921-4506 Board Members:

Christopher Hilbun, President Maria Clanton, Vice-President Matthew Smith, Secretary James Hill, Jr., Member Wade Whittington, Member

September 4, 2025

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Education

We are reaching out to ask for your support in an important matter concerning the safety and well-being of our school community. Recently, we have noticed students using threatening phrases such as "I'm going to shoot you" in a joking manner. While these statements may not be intended seriously, they are never appropriate in a school setting. Words carry significant weight, and language of this nature can cause fear, alarm, and serious disruptions to the learning environment.

As a district, we have a responsibility to treat all threatening language as a safety concern. Even when meant as a joke, these statements may lead to disciplinary consequences and, in some cases, involvement of law enforcement.

We are asking for your help in reinforcing this message at home. Please talk with your child about:

- · Choosing words that are safe and respectful.
- Understanding that jokes about violence or threats are not acceptable under any circumstances.
- The importance of helping create a positive and secure environment for all students.

Together, we can help our students learn the value of using words that build others up and contribute to a safe, supportive school culture. Thank you for your continued partnership in keeping our school community safe.

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Sincerely,

Sid Taylor,

**Director of Student Services**