

Shrewsbury Borough School

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SUPERINTENDENT

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Good afternoon,

I have been recently informed that there has been a person sending text messages to our students posing as a teenaged girl named 'Alaini.' It is important that you understand that this text message has been sent by someone who has attempted to have students disclose highly personal information including their name, where they attend school, and their home address. This person has also attempted to convince child recipients, through text-based conversations, to meet them at public venues throughout Monmouth County. This matter is currently being investigated by the Shrewsbury Borough Police Department and other police departments in our area. If they have more information about this person or these types of text messages, I will inform our parent community immediately.

Officers from the Shrewsbury Borough Police Department will be in school tomorrow to speak about this matter with our students during their lunch periods. They will focus on informing our students of what they should do if they receive any type of message from an anonymous sender. They will also reinforce all of the ways in which our students can keep themselves safe from cyber predators and how they should avoid engaging in text communication with persons who they do not know directly.

If you believe that your child has received a similar message or you have further information about this matter, please contact the SBPD directly at 1.732.741.2500. If possible, you should preserve the message by taking a screen-shot of the text, or otherwise saving the text message(s) for further investigation.

While incidents like this are disturbing for our students and parents, I am hopeful that we use this opportunity to encourage further dialogue at home and in our community about the potential dangers of the cyber world. With the close partnership and support of the Shrewsbury Community Alliance and the Shrewsbury Borough Police Department, SBS regularly provides opportunities throughout the year to educate our students and parents about safe internet behavior. I encourage all of you to be a part of our efforts to keep our students and our community safe at all times by attending SCA events.

Please contact me directly at any time if you have any questions or concerns about this matter.

Very sincerely,

Brent A. MacConnell