

THE DAILY SENTINEL

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Threat leads to cancellation of classes in Olathe SENTINEL STAFF

Classes at Olathe Elementary School and at the combined middle/high school were canceled today but are expected to resume tomorrow after school and law-enforcement officials learned that a student made a threat against the schools Wednesday night.

The Montrose County School District and Montrose County Sheriff's Office received a Safe2Tell report of a threat, which officials deemed credible after reviewing the student's social media account. Authorities began investigating and decided to cancel school in the interest of student, faculty and public safety, county officials said in a news release issued this morning.

Sheriff's deputies contacted the student and the student's family shortly after midnight and searched their home, which turned up no weapons or ammunition. Deputies are continuing their investigation and working with the school district and the 7th Judicial District Attorney's Office. School district disciplinary processes are also ongoing.

"I have full confidence that our schools are safe. These type of threats will not be tolerated," Sheriff Gene Lillard said in a statement. "I'd like to commend the individuals that came forward with the information and used Safe2Tell as the method."

Both schools will resume as normally scheduled on Friday, with the sheriff's office and Olathe Police Department planning increased law enforcement presence at the schools.

"Montrose County School District takes all threats seriously. The safety and security of our students, staff and community is paramount. We thank the MCSO for their quick and thorough response," Superintendent Stephen Schiell said in a statement.

Officials said while emotions may be high right now, they are asking people to refrain from spreading rumors on social media.

Anyone aware of a threat to the safety of a school should call 911. Or you can remain anonymous by reporting to Safe2Tell at safe2tell.org, calling 877-542-7233 or downloading the Safe2Tell app.