



## Social Media Threat Involving Potential Violence at Local School

**September 6, 2021** – At approximately 7:00 PM, the Menifee Police Department (MPD) received a call for service from a Romoland School District employee regarding threatening statements posted to social media. The statements referenced potential violence planned for Tuesday, September 7, 2021, at Ethan A. Chase Middle School.

Based on the nature of the threats, MPD officers and detectives began to immediately investigate the source of the threats and to determine if the threats were credible. MPD detectives authored search warrants for the social media account used to disseminate the threats. Upon getting the search warrants approved, detectives were able to identify four involved students, as well as their home addresses.

Detectives worked throughout the night to contact the four involved students and their parents. All the students and their parents were cooperative with the investigation. One of the students took full responsibility for the threat posted to social media. Based on their investigation, detectives determined the threat was not viable or credible.

Although detectives believe the threat was not viable or credible, they are continuing to investigate the social media account used to post the threat. Upon completion of the investigation, it will be forwarded to the District Attorney's office for review.

MPD wants everyone, including students, to know that threats of any type will be taken seriously. This includes threats to use firearms, other weapons, physical assault, or any other illegal activity. Even if it is determined the threat was not credible, there is still a likelihood of criminal charges being sought. There is no such thing as a joke when it comes to these types of threats.

Student safety is a top priority for MPD and all three school districts within the City of Menifee. Having said that, we cannot do it alone. Student safety is everyone's responsibility. We encourage anyone who may have information that could jeopardize the safety of a student to immediately report it to school administrators and the police.

