



Updated News Release:

13-YEAR-OLD SUSPECT ARRESTED FOR THE SOCIAL MEDIA SCHOOL THREAT

June 3, 2022 – As a result of the forensic examination of several digital devices, investigators were able to confirm the identity of the student who created the social media account and subsequently posted the threat. The suspect was identified as a 13-year-old female student at Hans Christensen Middle School. The student's name is not being released because she is a juvenile.

Investigators conferred with the Riverside County District Attorney's Office regarding the case. It was determined the evidence obtained during the investigation was sufficient for a criminal charge.

Investigators responded to the school and took the suspect into custody for Penal Code 422.2 (a) [willfully threatening unlawful violence upon the grounds of a school]. She was transported and booked into custody at Riverside County Juvenile Hall.

The investigation continues including the examination of additional digital devices. If other students are found to be involved with the posting of the social media school threat, additional arrests could be made.

This criminal investigation is separate from the school's administrative investigation.

SCHOOL THREAT AT HANS CHRISTENSEN MIDDLE SCHOOL

June 1, 2022 – At approximately 12:50 PM, Menifee Police Department (MPD) Officers received a call for service regarding a social media threat at Hans Christensen Middle School. Information in the call indicated the threat named several students and staff. Responding officers arrived on scene and contacted school administration. Officers were able to view a screenshot of the social media post due to the account being deleted by an unknown person prior to officers' arrival. Detectives responded and took over the investigation.

Throughout the course of the investigation, detectives interviewed several students and began to forensically examine numerous digital devices. Detectives discovered the social media account used to post the threat had just been created. Detectives were able to narrow down who may have either posted the threat or knew who posted the threat.

Detectives responded to the homes of several students and contacted their parents who fully cooperated with the investigation. Through those conversations, it was learned that the children nor the parents have access to any firearms or other dangerous weapons. Detectives are still examining several digital devices to determine if any of them were used to create the social media threat.



At this point in the investigation, detectives have deemed the threat to be non-credible, but continue to work hard to positively identify the person responsible for creating the post. Once this occurs, criminal charges are likely. In addition, the students will likely face administrative action(s) by the school.

Although law enforcement has seen an increase in these types of posts around the region, MPD wants the public to know that all threats, whether specific, implied, or otherwise, that cause fear in our community will not be tolerated. MPD is committed to using all available resources to ensure we hold the person(s) responsible for such threats accountable for their actions. These posts are disruptive to our school sites and require many hours of law enforcement investigation. In this case, well over 24 hours for several officers/detectives.

MPD will continue to collaborate with our schools to ensure they remain a safe environment for students and staff.

If anyone has any information regarding this social media threat, please contact Detective Amber Marcinko at 951-723-1610 or amarcinko@menifeepolice.org.