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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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Kimberly K. Halterman, Superintendent
Alleghany Highlands Public Schools
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INCIDENT AT CLIFTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

ALLEGHANY COUNTY, VA - The administration at Clifton Middle School was made aware of a verbal threat. Upon learning of the threat, the administrators immediately reported the threat to the Sheriff's Office and Virginia State Police. It was determined that the threat was made by a student and was not a credible threat. However, Alleghany Highlands Public Schools and cooperating law enforcement agencies take any threat seriously, whether it was done in jest or to disrupt our schools. Based upon the on-going investigation a student admitted to making a verbal threat; the school has taken immediate disciplinary action, and charges are pending.

We understand situations such as these are concerning to parents, students, and the greater community. We want you to be aware that the administration of Clifton Middle School has exercised extreme diligence and taken all proper actions required by law and in the best interests of our students and our faculty.

Alleghany Highlands Public Schools maintains strict policies and procedures designed to protect the safety and well-being of our students. We urge you to have a serious conversation with your children about the ramifications of threats. It does not matter if they meant the words as a prank, a joke, or sarcasm, we take them seriously, and so does the Sheriff's Office and Virginia State Police. We urge everyone to remain vigilant. If you or your child hears or sees anything unusual, please report the unusual activity to the school or local law enforcement officials immediately. We must work collaboratively to keep our children safe in the community and safe at school. Together, we can make a difference!