



## Exceptional Education Through Arts Integration

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[www.gatecitycharterschool.org](http://www.gatecitycharterschool.org)

January 20, 2017

Dear GCCSA Families:

**Executive Director**  
Mrs. Karin Cevasco

**Deputy Director**  
Mrs. Esther Kosofsky

**Office Manager**  
Mrs. Nancy Donaghey

**Finance Manager**  
Mrs. Christina Whitaker

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**Member**  
*Vacant*

On Tuesday, January 17, 2017, a letter was sent home to inform you of possible threats made to our school community. This follow up is to inform you of the facts that were discovered through our ongoing investigation process.

At dismissal time, on Tuesday, certain seventh grade students made allegations against their classmate that comments were made to cause harm to them. The student was accused of saying he would bring a gun to school. We immediately began investigating the incident. Our investigation has confirmed that, while some regretful statements were made, the statement that was alleged about a gun was not made. With the support of the Merrimack Police Department, we have confirmed there is no immediate threat to the safety of our school.

During our investigation, we uncovered a broader potential bullying situation that may involve up to five of our seventh grade students. Those parents have been, or will be, notified that a bullying investigation is ongoing. The investigation will continue under the school's bullying policy and the guidance of New Hampshire's anti-bullying law, RSA 193-F.

This week has been a challenging one for all of us at GCCSA. In a small school such as our's, please do not speculate and jump to conclusions based on accusations and hearsay. While student privacy is important to us, we are focused on the safety of each and all our students, faculty, and staff. In any event as this, we work with the police, other school districts, and community service organizations to best address the social, emotional, and safety needs of our entire school community.

At this time, we continue to work with community resources available to our school to address bullying with our students. We have scheduled a counselor to work with our students to help us to move forward, stronger and in a united way, following the events uncovered this week.

Thank you for all the parents who have contacted us with their messages of support. Through these unfortunate circumstances, we have learned more about the talent in our parent community and the resources you each bring to contribute to the wellbeing of our school. As always, please continue to call us with your questions and concerns.

Sincerely,  
Karin Cevasco  
Executive Director

Esther Kosofsky  
Deputy Director