



# DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

## PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

www.gdoe.net  
501 Mariner Avenue  
Barrigada, Guam 96913  
Telephone: (671) 300-1677/Fax:  
(671)472-5001 Email: matfranquez@gdoe.net

**K. ERIK SWANSON, Ph.D.**  
Superintendent of Education



**MICHELLE A.T. FRANQUEZ**  
Public Information Officer

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### **George Washington High School Taking Pre-emptive Measures to Address Anonymous Threat**

Earlier today, the George Washington High School administration sent a letter to its faculty, staff, and parents via Swift Messenger. In this letter, the administration explained that they received information regarding an anonymous threat to the safety of the GWHS community. The threat originated from an Instagram post that has since gone viral. After completing a safety assessment, the GWHS administrative team immediately notified the Guam Department of Education (GDOE) management. Local law enforcement and the Mariana Regional Fusion Center (MRFC) have already been contacted and are assisting in identifying and validating this threat.

Following GDOE safety processes and procedures, the following measures will be put in place:

- 100% visitor ID check at the main entrance
- Blanket searches in the morning at each point of entry - main gate (walkers), student drop-off area (car riders), and the bus drop-off area
- Lockdown and shelter-in-place exercises

“GDOE is not taking this threat lightly,” said Dr. Swanson, Superintendent of Education. “The Department has plans and procedures in place to ensure that the safety of our students and staff is a top priority. We also implore our island community to help us keep our schools safe by reporting any rumors or tips to the GWHS administrators who will then investigate and turn it over to the police if necessary.”

Anyone who has information relative to this threat and would like to remain anonymous is encouraged to send a message via WhatsApp to the GWHS Hotline at (671) 300-3012. Numbers that message the hotline are not stored.

For those interested in our practices and procedures, the GDOE Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for Search and Seizures can be found at the following link: <https://gdoe.net/files/user/8/file/SOP%201200-002.pdf>

GDOE will continue to update our island community when more information is available. For any inquiries or concerns, the island community can call GWHS at (671) 734-2911 or email [gwhs@gdoe.net](mailto:gwhs@gdoe.net).

**---END OF STATEMENT---**