



SMYRNA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Patrik D. Williams, Superintendent

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SMYRNA SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICIAL STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

On Thursday, December 2, 2021, the Administration at John Bassett Moore Intermediate School became aware of a student who created an anime-style “death note” in which enthusiasts make predictions about different anime characters’ future deaths. Those who are avid anime enthusiasts are familiar with this practice and often compare, share or collaborate in the creation of the “notes”. However, in this particular note while the student replicated the practice, the actual predictions involved classmates’ future deaths.

The School Administration investigated the note on December 2nd, contacted the parent of the note’s author, as well as those students whose names appeared in the note, and subsequently, alerted the Smyrna Police Department School Resource Officer. The School Administration in concert with the school mental health team completed a research-based risk assessment and concluded that the student presented “no risk” to self or others. Law enforcement has concurred, and the School Administration has taken appropriate action to provide an age-appropriate, responsive intervention.

In light of this week’s school shooting in Michigan and the subsequent revelations that have shocked our nation, the Smyrna School District wants to make clear that at no time were any individuals at risk. The thorough investigation revealed that the incident did not rise to the level of an official law enforcement response, but the school and the district take all such matters very seriously. Consequently, the School Administration will continue to follow up with the student and the student’s family to ensure that safety, wellness and continued support remain the focus.