

# THE COURIER

OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

## Reported gun threat at Oak Ridge High School leads to sweep of school as parents remove students from class

By Catherine Dominguez,  
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Photo: Jason Fochtman, Staff Photographer

Oak Ridge High School parents were removing their children from school Friday after a possible gun threat made on social media and a sweep of the school by Conroe ISD police and school administrators. Students were reporting officers had found as many as three guns combined at the high school and ninth-grade campus. One student told The Courier there was a threat posted on social media Thursday night stating there would be a "bloody surprise" at the school.

"When we came in, there were police officers everywhere and drug dogs everywhere," said the student, who told The Courier there have been several recent threats made. "They had administrators coming to the classrooms and taking everyone to go get their stuff searched and dumping everything out and making us walk through metal detectors."

However, school administrators and the Conroe ISD disputed student reports. In an email sent to parents, Oak Ridge Principal Tommy Johnson said no weapons were found during the screenings. "These safety measures are part of our regular practice and not in response to any rumors circulating," Johnson stated.

Parents also received notice from the school district regarding the search at the school. "As part of our continued safety awareness, we are conducting random classroom checks today," the message stated. "This includes the use of metal detectors and CISD canine officers. Today's checks are simply routine and are not based on any threat. We will continue to use checks like this to ensure your child's safety."

The students said there was a line of parents waiting to get their students earlier in the day and that many students already had left the campus by noon. The high school and ninth-grade campuses are located near each other in South Montgomery County just east side of Interstate 45.

Earlier this month, County Attorney J D Lambright told The Courier that there had been a dozen threats through Montgomery County schools in the aftermath of the Feb. 14 school shooting at a Parkland, Fla., high school that left 17 students dead at the hands of a 19-year-old former student. The threats here had resulted in 10-12 arrests, with the students charged with either terroristic threat or harassment.

The County Attorney's Office has jurisdiction over all Class B and higher offenses committed by children under the age of 17 in Montgomery County, making Lambright's office the recipient of most student-based school threats around the county. What has typically been two or three threats a month, Lambright said, has increased to two or three a day at schools across the county.

Johnson's note to Oak Ridge parents reminded them that everyone should verify information before disseminating it, whether it is shared on social media or through text messages. He also asked parents to communicate with students about issues involving misinformation on social media and reinforced the importance of reporting suspected dangers to authorities. That includes anonymous tips on CISD's KidChat hotline at 1-888-KidChat (543-2428), which is available 24 hours a day.