



Rick Staly, Sheriff

FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

"An honor to serve, a duty to protect."

NEWS RELEASE

Date: Thursday, December 13, 2018

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Two Middle School Students Arrested for Making School Threats

Two students at Indian Trails Middle School (ITMS) were arrested and charged with False Report Concerning the Use of Firearms in a Violent Manner, a felony, on Thursday evening. School Resource Deputies were made aware that the students discussed plans of a school shooting on the school bus on Wednesday. School Administration informed the School Resource Deputies that the students were already suspended.

A thorough investigation of the school bus footage as well as interviews with the suspects, their parents, and witnesses were completed. Based on the completed investigation, FCSO School Resource Deputies and Detectives determined that the two students made threatening statement regarding a potential shooting on the school's campus causing the witness to be in fear for her safety.

"Threatening to bring guns on campus or to shoot anyone is no joking matter and has again led to the arrest of two students," said Sheriff Rick Staly. "The Flagler County Sheriff's Office has a zero tolerance policy on school threats. We don't like making these arrests but all threats will be taken seriously and thoroughly investigated and, where appropriate, arrests or charges will be made. Parents – talk to your children. Just like being in an airport or on a plane, make sure your children know what is appropriate language and behavior and what is not. Get involved in what they are doing online, too. This behavior must stop and only you can stop it by talking to your kids and knowing what they are doing and feeling."

"I ask all our parents to sit down with their children and have a serious discussion about school safety," Flagler Schools Superintendent James Tager said. "We, along with Sheriff Staly, are committed to ensuring our schools are safe learning environments and, as we've seen numerous times over the past few weeks, any threat to that safety will be dealt with in a serious manner."

Landon Votour, 13, and Sandy Whitworth, 14, were charged with False Report Concerning the Use of Firearms in a Violent Manner. They will be processed at the Sheriff Perry Hall Inmate Detention Center and turned over to the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice.

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