



**Rick Staly, Sheriff**

## **FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

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

# **NEWS RELEASE**

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## **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Student Charged with Threats to Conduct a Mass Shooting**

*Sheriff Urges Parents to Talk to their Children about Consequences*

A 12-year-old Indian Trails Middle School student has been arrested and charged with Sending a Written Threat to Conduct a Mass Shooting after sending messages referencing a school shooting through Snapchat to fellow students on November 15.

A parent of a fellow student had found the messages, which were sent to their child, on their child's cell phone and then contacted the Flagler County Sheriff's Office. Deputies discovered several messages referencing killing people and shooting up the school.

FCSO Deputies immediately responded to the suspects' residence where they made contact with the suspect and their parents. Upon questioning, the student referenced plans to conduct a mass shooting at ITMS but they needed to gather supplies to use first. The suspect had convinced their parent to purchase them a pair of football gloves and had been in contact with another student in an attempt to obtain a firearm.

"Threats such as these are not a joke and will always be taken seriously," Sheriff Rick Staly said. "We don't like making these arrests, but we will come knocking on your door if your child makes any threat to harm someone. Thank you to the parent who found messages on their child's phone and then reported it to us so we could take swift action to prevent an incident from occurring within Flagler County Schools. I also hope this child gets the mental health help that is obviously needed."

The juvenile was placed under arrest and transported to the Department of Juvenile Justice without incident.

The Flagler County Sheriff's Office urges parents to talk to their students about the consequences of sending threats to commit violence. The Flagler County Sheriff's Office will arrest any student who threatens violence against anyone.

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