



# DISCOVERY HIGH SCHOOL

1335 Old Norcross Road, Lawrenceville, GA 30046

PHONE: (678) 226-4250 FAX: (770) 806-8930

*Navigate - Collaborate - Innovate*

J. ALVIN WILBANKS  
CEO/SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Gene Taylor  
*Principal*  
Phyllis Owen  
*Associate Principal*  
Dr. Stephen Black  
*Business Manager/Assistant Principal*  
*Assistant Principals*  
Josh Allen  
Chris Hall  
Dr. Yolanda Hardman  
Sadia Khan  
Dennis Miles  
Traye Moore  
OJ Soto  
Deborah White

February 27, 2018

Dear Discovery High School Parents,

We take our students' safety very seriously at Discovery High School which is why I am writing to communicate to you about a social media situation that was addressed yesterday. I also am writing to ask for your continued assistance moving forward.

Our hearts go out to the victims, families, and all of those touched by the tragic events that occurred on February 14<sup>th</sup> in Parkland, Florida. Media coverage of this tragedy has prompted a range of responses across the nation and here in our community. One unfortunate response that we have seen here in Gwinnett has been the spread of rumors, especially on social media, about safety threats.

At approximately 4:00 p.m. yesterday, our school was contacted about an Instagram message being circulated that expressed concern about attending school today. The Discovery High School Administration and Gwinnett County Public Schools responded immediately to this message by working with our School Resource Officer, the district Office of Safety and Security, students, parents, and teachers to identify the authors of the messages. This cooperation allowed the Discovery Administration to identify and contact the students who sent the messages and their parents. **From our investigation we were able to confirm that the concerns being circulated were based on rumors and gossip and NOT any credible threats.**

We definitely want and need students to report specific threats and concerns; however, please encourage your students to report rather than spreading rumors, whether through direct conversation or social media. If a student hears something they should report it to a trusted adult at school or home. They also should consider that sharing rumors and gossip, actually makes it more difficult to respond to credible threats. In addition, it is important to keep in mind that any student engaging in activities that create a class or school disruption, including spreading rumors or gossip, may face disciplinary action.

I want to thank our students, parents, teachers, and SROs for their effective collaboration with this situation. If a credible threat against Discovery is ever determined, the school or district will send a message to parents and students. I also welcome you to join Remind to receive updates, announcements and emergency information:

- Download the free Remind app
- GO TO: <https://remind.com/join/k3dgd> OR
- BY TEXT: enter this number: 81010 and text this message: @k3dgd

I want to thank you in advance for reviewing this situation with your student(s) and for all you do to make Discovery High School a great and safe place at which to learn, teach and lead.

Sincerely,

Dr. H. E. Gene Taylor