



# BURGETTSTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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**Mr. Stephen P. Puskar**  
**Superintendent**

May 29, 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Last Friday morning, May 26<sup>th</sup>, when the 7<sup>th</sup> grade students and their teachers went up to our baseball fields for their field day, one of the teachers noticed two individuals sitting in a pickup truck on our property. Their dress and manner led us to believe that they were they were spotting for hunting. The individuals were approached and told they had to leave. After conversation with them, they left without incident. Our school police officer, Officer Fisher, called Smith Twp. Police, who arrived on scene shortly after being called. They did a check of the surrounding areas. At no time was there a threat, and the field day went on as scheduled.

The reality is that with the game lands so close by, hunters and other nature seeking individuals occasionally come onto our property. When we notice it, we address it. The difference this time is that we had students on the ball fields, and as such, we want to make you aware of the situation.

The end of the school year brings many wonderful activities for our students, many of which are outdoors, and most of which are unique to our special community. We are fortunate that our schools are located on one campus, and this allows for more control of the surroundings. However, we must remember that while faculty, staff, students, parents/guardians, and many others support and are pleased with the number of events such as field day, there is a risk in today's environment. We do not want to be in a position to have to end these types of events in the future, and certainly have no intention to do so. However, we can never be too careful, and will assess the end-of-year events in their entirety over the summer planning period so we can make decisions related to proceeding next school year.