



September 2020

Re: VTRA - Letter of Fair Notice

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The STAR Catholic School Division is committed to providing safe and caring learning environments for all students, staff, school visitors and community members. To this end, we have invested heavily in the professional certification of administrative staff in Level 1 & Level 2 Violence and Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) training across the Division. VTRA helps schools respond quickly to incidents where students' behaviours pose a potential threat to safety or serious harm.

In all six of our school Division's communities we have signed off on formalized community-based VTRA protocols that include other regional partners such as the public school jurisdictions, the RCMP, Alberta Health Services, and other community agencies. Such protocols outline how organizations will collaborate and work together to respond quickly to threatening behavior. These protocols are modeled on the work of the Canadian Centre for Threat Assessment Trauma Response.

Please be advised that the school division requires school administrators to complete a threat risk assessment in cases of students making significant threats to themselves or others. The purpose of the assessment is to ascertain the potential level of risk posed and identify supports that may be required. It is important for all parties to engage in the threat risk assessment process. If, for some reason, there is a reluctance to participate in the process by the threat-maker or parents and guardians, the assessment procedures will continue in order to ensure a safe and caring learning environment. Personal information shared throughout the threat risk assessment process respects and weighs individual rights to privacy with the need to uphold the safety of all.

We are proud to be able to provide this level of support to our school communities and are most fortunate to have our community partners at our side. If you wish for further information please contact Assistant Superintendent Laurie Kardynal at 780.986.2500

Yours in Catholic Education,

Charlie Bouchard
Superintendent