

## VISALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT Jason Salazar, Chief of Police

Liz Jones, Public Safety Police & Fire PIO, Media & Communications Manager (559) 713-4370 (office) / (559) 713-4807 (fax) Elizabeth.Jones@visalia.city

\*\*\*NEWS RELEASE\*\*\* September 18, 2024

## VPD Investigate School Threats, Arrest Two Students

Today, Visalia PD Youth Services Officers were informed of a rumor circulating on social media regarding a potential threat to Ridgeview Middle School.

YSO's immediately launched an investigation, interviewing a 12-year-old student and searching the student's home, where no weapons were found. The investigation confirmed there is currently no real threat to the school.

The 12-year-old student has been taken into custody and booked at the Tulare County Juvenile Detention Facility for making the threat.

YSO's were also informed that a 13-year-old student was rumored to have brought a firearm to school and was showing it to other students.

Detectives immediately identified and located the student, confirming he brought a BB gun to school.

The 13-year-old was booked at the Tulare County Juvenile Detention Facility for bringing a weapon/replica to school.

Let it be clear: all threats, whether verbal or online, are taken very seriously and investigated thoroughly. Those responsible will face consequences.

All school activities will proceed as usual tomorrow, with increased police presence on campus.

As always, if you see something, please say something.

