

High school in Pittsford vandalized

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After vandals struck Pittsford Mendon High School twice over the weekend, an email sent home to parents offered instructions on how to use their child's cellphone to check if they were near the school during the incidents.

In an email to parents at Pittsford Sutherland High School, principal Brian P. Weller said the vandalism occurred before school Friday and again around 12:30 to 1:30 a.m. Monday. The email indicated that some Sutherland students had taken part in the vandalism.

A similar email was sent to parents of Pittsford Mendon High School students by that principal, said Pittsford Central School District spokeswoman Nancy Wayman.

Between 13 and 15 kids are believed to have been involved and damage was estimated at \$3,200, according to Wayman. Most of the damage came on Monday. Most of the students stepped forward and admitted their part in the vandalism, including some students from Sutherland, Wayman said.

The school on Mendon Road had been egged and shot up by a paint ball gun, and windows on classroom and doors were broken, Wayman said. The front entrance had to be closed off because of the damage, she said. In his email, Weller told parents that the district computer technicians were able to collect information on at least 16 cellphones belonging to current seniors that connected to the school's Wi-Fi network during the times of the vandalism. Several of the phones belonged to Sutherland students.

He also gave step-bystep instructions on how parents could check their child's cellphone location service to see where they had been. The principal wrote: "Please let me be clear that my goal in communicating this information is to try to maintain this at the level of a school issue with school consequences, rather than having to take this matter to the Monroe County Sheriff's (Office)."

He asked the students involved or their parents to contact the principal's office no later than noon Wednesday. By Thursday morning, he and the superintendent will make a decision whether to contact the Sheriff's Office about those who did not step forward, Weller said.

"We want to avoid this being a police matter" with more significant consequences, Wayman said, explaining that the broken windows were the issue. They created a safety issue with the school unable to keep people from entering the school. The students who came forward will be allowed to participate in their graduation ceremonies. There will be no legal consequences, just some sort of punishment that may include being barred from participating in a senior activity, Wayman said.

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