



| 1405 PROGRESS PARKWAY, VIRGINIA, MN 55792 | 218.742.3901 | WWW.RRPS.ORG |

March 7, 2025

Hello Rock Ridge staff and families,

Early this afternoon, the St. Louis County Sheriff's Department released a statement concerning an employee of Rock Ridge Public Schools who was assigned to the high school. For full transparency, I am attaching the statement released from the St. Louis Sheriff's office.

We have placed the individual involved on paid administrative leave for the foreseeable future. Until the legal process plays out, this individual will not be back on school property.

At this time, we do not believe that any Rock Ridge students are involved in this investigation, nor do we have any indication that any actions related to the investigation took place on school grounds. We believe that this matter is wholly unrelated to the District.

We take the safety of our students and staff very seriously. In addition, we are fully cooperating with law enforcement officers.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to send me an email at noel.schmidt@rrps.org or call me at (218) 742-3901.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "NS", written over a white background.

Dr. Noel Schmidt
Superintendent



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: 03/07/2025

Media Contact: Sgt. Eric Sathers

(218) 336-4311

Range cybertip investigation

Late in the day on March 5, 2025, the St. Louis Sheriff's Office received information from the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) regarding several Cybertips involving child exploitation. Cybertips are received by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) when an electronic service provider detects child exploitation material on their network. After the tips are received by NCMEC, they are forwarded to a state law enforcement agency, who then determines the exact location of the incident and then contacts local law enforcement. One of the tips in this case involved the solicitation of a minor who lived in the state of Georgia. Another of the tips involved an individual receiving child sexual abuse material. Throughout the investigation, it was learned the suspect in both tips lived in Eveleth, MN and was employed by Rock Ridge High School.

On March 6, 2025, St. Louis County Sheriff's Office personnel, along with agents from the BCA, Officers from the Lake Superior Forensic Technology and Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (LSFT&ICACTF), and other local law-enforcement executed multiple search warrants in the cities of Virginia and Eveleth. The suspect was located and questioned, and multiple items of evidence were collected. No arrests have been made at this time and the investigation is ongoing.

At this time, the Sheriff's Office has no information to indicate there are any local victims or that any students at Rock Ridge High School are involved. As this is an open investigation, no additional information can be released at this time.

Concerned citizens can contact Sgt. Eric Sathers of the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office at 218-336-4311.