

Police investigate threat at school

By LIZ SHEPARD
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Port Huron police are investigating a racial threat at Port Huron Northern High School.

Officers were called to the school about 12:45 p.m. Tuesday after a student found the threat on the wall of a boys bathroom. Port Huron police Lt. Scott Pike said the message — written in red marker — named and threatened to injure eight students. A slur directed at black people was used, he said.

Pike declined to release additional details about the message, citing an ongoing investigation. The parents of the students named have been informed, according to a statement from the police department.

Port Huron schools Superintendent H. Ronald Wollen did not return a phone message Tuesday evening.

It's not the first time Northern has faced racial tension.

In November 2005 a letter was sent to parents stating the school had dealt with "a sensitive issue

regarding diversity," and was making efforts to celebrate diversity.

Less than a week later, parents urged district officials to address racial issues after a letter containing racial slurs was found in a black student's locker. The letter had a Confederate flag drawn on it and the words, "The South will rise."

School officials discovered a textbook filled with threats and racial slurs in May 2006. It also included a "hit" list of about 15 students and some administrators. A second hit list and a bomb threat were discovered later that month at the school.

In an October 2006 federal lawsuit, the parents of 12 students claimed their children were victims of student-on-student harassment and subjected to a racially hostile environment between September 2003 and September 2006. The court case is pending.

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