

December 10, 2008

Dear Parent/Guardian:

West Ashley High School strives to maintain a safe and secure learning environment. Therefore, in addition to ongoing random weapon screenings with metal detectors, we will immediately begin random car and locker searches.

Mary Runyon
Principal

Dr. Nancy J. McGinley
Superintendent of Schools

Louis Martin
Associate Superintendent

West Ashley High School

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While we have no specific information regarding a particular weapon on campus, we want to be proactive in deterring students from bringing weapons and/or drugs on campus. "Best Practices" suggest that random screenings can be an effective deterrent to students bringing weapons or drugs on campus. Periodically, a car or locker will be randomly chosen for screening.

Please remind your child that tobacco, alcohol and other drugs are not allowed anywhere on campus. Weapons of any kind are not allowed on campus. This includes: fire-arms, paintball guns, pellet/BB guns, knives, box cutters, swords, hatchets, machetes, night sticks, pepper spray, shotgun shells, bullets, etc. Also, any item that looks like a weapon or could be used as a weapon is prohibited from campus.

During the screening process, cell phones and mp3 players and the like will be returned to students. Weapons, alcohol and other drugs found on a student's person, in bookbags, purses, cars or lockers will be confiscated. Those students will be subject to consequences by the Charleston Police Department and the administration of WAHS including arrest, suspension and recommendation for expulsion. Students who fail to comply with directions from staff during the screening will be subject to consequences including arrest, suspension and recommendation for expulsion.

Students are prohibited from carrying weapons on school grounds (cars, lockers, bags, on person) or to school-sponsored events. Students using/having weapons, alcohol or other drugs while under the jurisdiction of the school will be subject to criminal charges, as well as expulsion from school. Any instrument that is capable of causing bodily harm will be considered a weapon and will be dealt with as such.

Any person, their property and or vehicle is subject to search at any time by a school official. Unannounced screenings including those by K-9 drug sweep teams will occur as a preventive measure in order to help preserve your child's safety.

Thank you for helping to make West Ashley High School a safe school. If you have any questions, please contact me at 843-573-1201.

Sincerely,


Mary Runyon, Principal