

October 27, 2008

Dear Parent/Guardian:

West Ashley High School strives to maintain a safe and secure learning environment. Therefore, beginning on Wednesday, October 29, 2008, we will conduct random weapon screenings.

**Mary Runyon**  
Principal

**Dr. Nancy J. McGinley**  
Superintendent of Schools

**Louis Martin**  
Associate Superintendent

**West Ashley High School**

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Tel. (843) 573-1201

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 classroom will be randomly chosen for screening. The process will be similar to a security screening at an airport, courthouse or some government buildings. Students will gather their belongings and go through a screening station. Students will pass through a portable walk-through metal detector while their jackets, bookbags and purses are searched. Hand-held metal detector wands will also be used. During the screening process, cell phones and mp3 players and the like will be returned to students. Weapons and drugs found on a student's person, in bookbags or purses 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 or to school-sponsored events. Hand-held and/or walk-through metal detectors may be utilized to assist in student screenings. Carrying weapons is a criminal offense and a breach of school rules. Students using/having weapons 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