



Mark A. Mitrovich, Superintendent of Schools

NAPERVILLE COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 203

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Important Information about School Safety

September 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Naperville School District 203 understands that there is nothing more precious than our children and, as such, take our responsibility for the safety of all of our students very seriously. As part of this commitment, we are writing this letter to enlist your support. Please take a moment to review the following information with your student, and, in particular, ensure that he/she understands the serious consequences associated with making threats and/or bringing weapons, or look-alike weapons, to school. We promise to do the same at school.

Students Who Bring Weapons to School

Possession of a weapon or a look alike, or implying the possession of a weapon or look alike, while on school property, including the school building, school grounds, or in transit to and from school (bus and walking routes) will be presumed to constitute a threat. Any potential weapon is based on the threat of injury it can pose to others or the disruption it can create in the educational setting. **Anything that fires a projectile, ejects a cartridge, and/or produces a flash will be considered a weapon.** As such, they are not allowed on school property under any circumstance. Banned weapons include air soft pistols, spring guns, BB guns and knives. Students and parents are advised that violations of the weapon policy will result in discipline up to and including expulsion. Additionally, the involved student(s) may face legal consequences.

Students Who Engage in Threats of Large Scale Violence

During the last six months, our metro-area has seen several bomb threats or threats of large scale violence, written anonymously in schools, prompting school closures or extensive police and school response to ensure the safety of our students. What once may have been viewed as a prank (a way to get a day off school) has now, in fact, eroded parents' confidence in school as a safe environment for children to learn and thrive. We want to assure our school community that District 203 takes these threats very seriously. To that extent, we will continue to work closely with our local police departments in prevention and response to these incidents. **Persons who choose to engage in these types of threats will incur school discipline, up to expulsion, and legal action will be pursued.** Legal action can include criminal charges up to a Class 1 Felony, as well as civil action for reimbursement of all additional expenses involved in the police and school response to the threat.

Students Who Vandalize Public Property

It is imperative that students understand that vandalism is not a prank, it's a crime – one that costs everyone. Money spent on repairing damage could be better spent on any number of positive programs to benefit the schools. **Persons who choose to engage in vandalizing school property, including outside of the normal school day, will incur school discipline, up to expulsion, and legal action will be pursued. By Naperville city ordinance, parents and/or guardians are fully liable for reimbursement for damaged property.**

Please discuss these important matters with your student, as well as with those designated as emergency contacts. As always, your support is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Mitrovich
Superintendent of Schools

David E. Dial, Chief
Naperville Police Department