

School Safety and the Use of Trained Dogs for Prohibited Items

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We want you to know that the safety and well being of your child is of utmost importance to us. The Meade County Sheriff's Department has recently purchased a dog that has been trained to safely search for prohibited items. The Meade County Board of Education Policy 09.436 allows for the use of trained dogs on school property to conduct those types of searches. We think that using such trained dogs more frequently will help create a safer learning environment for all children.

Generally, the trained dog will only be on the middle and high school campuses. From time-to-time you may hear that a search has occurred or is underway. We want our parents to know that these efforts are planned, proactive measures to keep prohibited items out of our schools. Our schools are very safe places and we want to do all we can to keep them that way.

An excerpt from policy 09.436 dealing with the use of a trained dog is below. If you would like to view the policy in its entirety, please visit our district webpage (www.meade.kyschools.us).

“USE OF TRAINED DOGS

The Superintendent may request law enforcement officials to bring trained dogs onto school property to search for contraband (prohibited items). Use of trained dogs shall be subject to the following conditions:

1. The dogs shall be certified as never having been trained as attack dogs.
2. The Principal or designee shall be present.
3. Searches involving dogs shall be conducted only when students are in classrooms or other designated safe area; no student shall be in the vicinity of lockers or other area of school property being searched.
4. All dogs shall be on a leash and will not be allowed to come in close proximity to any student.

The alert of trained dog to an item or area shall qualify as reasonable grounds on which to base a further search.”

Thanks for your role in making the Meade County School District such a great, safe place for children.

John Millay, Ph.D.

Superintendent of Schools