



BURGETTSTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Mr. Stephen P. Puskar
Superintendent

November 8, 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

This morning, an Elementary Center student brought a toy, that resembled a weapon, to school. When we learned of this, we were able to immediately meet with the student and take all appropriate steps as outlined in our policies and procedures. At no time was there cause to believe that a student had an actual weapon, and at no time was there a need to shift into any of our lock-down or lock out procedures.

Our teachers in certain grade levels permit students to bring toys to school from time to time, as is age and growth appropriate. Unfortunately in this instance, the toy was an inappropriate choice. Moving forward, we will use this as another “teachable moment” with our students. While we will certainly follow all disciplinary guidelines and respond accordingly, we also recognize that we should always utilize discretion in how we approach these kinds of situations. We ask that parents/guardians support the school district with the teachable moments by taking care to inspect what their child attempts to bring to school, and to have conversations about appropriateness.

The Burgettstown Area School District is committed to the safety and well-being of all students, faculty and staff. The District is also committed to the education and growth of all students and this incident, while unfortunate, provides an opportunity for the District to do both.