

BLAIR OAKS R-II SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dr. James K. Jones, Superintendent

6124 Falcon Lane
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101
(573) 636-2020 Fax (573) 636-2202

Dr. Melinda A. Aholt, Principal

Blair Oaks High School
(573) 635-8514
Fax (573) 635-6327

Kimberley D. Walters, Principal

Blair Oaks Middle School
(573) 634-2053
Fax (573) 636-3509

Tara M. Bishop, Principal

Blair Oaks Elementary School
(573) 634-2808
Fax (573) 634-3240

To: Area Press
From: Blair Oaks R-II School District
Re: Parent Letter on Incident After School Today
Date: January 6, 2020

The parent letter below serves as our press release of an incident that occurred at Blair Oaks shortly after the school ended today.

Press Release FAX List

KRCG-TV Channel 13 FAX 573-896-5193	KMIZ-TV Channel 17 FAX 573-449-6271
KWOS 950 AM FAX 573-893-4137 KATI 94.3 FM	KOMU-TV Channel 8 FAX 573-884-5353
KLIK 1240 AM FAX 573-635-3299 KJMO 100.1 FM KZJF 104.1 FM	KPLA 101.5 FM FAX 573-449-7770 KCLR 99.3 FM FAX 573-874-3453
Jefferson City News-Tribune	FAX 573-761-0235

BLAIR OAKS R-II SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dr. James K. Jones, Superintendent

6124 Falcon Lane
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101
(573) 636-2020 Fax (573) 636-2202

Dr. Melinda A. Aholt, Principal
Blair Oaks High School
(573) 635-8514
Fax (573) 635-6327

Kimberley D. Walters, Principal
Blair Oaks Middle School
(573) 634-2053
Fax (573) 636-3509

Tara M. Bishop, Principal
Blair Oaks Elementary School
(573) 634-2808
Fax (573) 634-3240

January 6, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians of Blair Oaks Students:

After school on Monday, January 6, it was brought to the attention of the Blair Oaks R-II School District School Resource Officer that students were handling a weapon inside the cab of one of the vehicles in the Blair Oaks student parking lot. The vehicle in question was soon after pulled over by Deputy Renick on campus. After initial investigation, it was discovered that the two students had been handling a plastic pellet gun in the vehicle. Upon subsequent search, other firearms were found in the vehicle. The plastic pellet gun and the other guns were confiscated.

After further investigation, it appears that today's incident was a case of poor judgement by two of our students. We have determined that the students involved had no intent to harm anyone with the weapons found in the vehicle. We do not feel that anyone on campus was ever in any danger. Nevertheless, we are taking this matter seriously, and both the District's administration and law enforcement (Cole County Sheriff's Department) are now involved. We will continue to investigate the situation.

Respectfully, we are taking this opportunity to remind all of our students and parents that the presence of a firearm or weapon - even if the firearm or weapon is for recreational use, such as hunting - inherently poses a substantial risk of serious harm to District students, staff, and community members and is therefore prohibited. Please see Policy 1432 for more information. Our policies can be located here: https://www.blairoaks.k12.mo.us/Board_Policies.

Further, a violation of Policy 1432 carries significant discipline up to and including possible expulsion. To ensure clarity, this prohibition applies to all District buildings, grounds, vehicles and parking areas, as well as any off-campus District-sponsored events. Student safety is paramount and thus, while we understand some may view this policy as inconvenient during the various hunting seasons, it remains that any violation of this policy will be dealt with severely.

As you may know, the Family Education Rights & Privacy Act (FERPA) preserves the confidentiality of student records and personally identifiable information relating to students. Accordingly, the disclosure of student information, including any specific information related to discipline resulting from this incident, is strictly prohibited by law. Please see Policy 2400 for more information. Accordingly, we are unable to disclose specific information relating to the students involved, including whether and what type of discipline may be meted here.

We are prepared, however, to answer any general questions about this situation and/or any questions you may have about the District's policies. We want to work to ease any concerns that may result from this situation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J.K.J.', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

James K. Jones, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools