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Serving the Towns of Bethlehem and Woodbury

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January 11, 2019

Dear Parents and Staff,

As in years past, Regional School District 14 has partnered with the Woodbury Resident Trooper's Office/ Connecticut State Police to bring specially trained canines onto our school campuses to deter contraband substances, including illegal drugs, from being brought onto school grounds and to maintain a safe learning environment for all. The canines will sniff and "alert" their law enforcement handlers to the presence of substances and/or dangerous items prohibited by law and District policy. All school sites in Region 14 are subject to searches involving canines.

Specifically, the District may invite the Woodbury Resident Trooper's Office/ Connecticut State Police on one or more occasions during the 2018-2019 school year in order to conduct a random canine sweep of all school property, including students' lockers and parking areas. The use of trained sniffing dogs, and associated law enforcement personnel, is for the purpose of detecting and "alerting" on property only. No individual shall be subjected to a dog sniff examination of his/her person. However, personal property such as book bags, tote bags, purses and other objects or materials used to transport or store property that are not part of the individual's clothing and intended to be readily detached from the person may be examined. Dogs will not be used in areas occupied by students, staff or any other persons except for demonstration purposes with the handler present, or in serious life-threatening emergencies. The District will ensure that students and staff are not physically present in the vicinity of a search conducted with the assistance of any dog.

Because these sweeps are random, there will be no announcement/communication prior to, during, or after the actual date of the visit by the dog(s).

Please take notice of Board of Education Policy 5145.12 for a further description of all searches permitted by the District.

Sincerely,

Joseph A. Olzacki, Ed. D.  
Superintendent of Schools

cc: Sergeant Joseph Roden