

## Join Letter to the Kennedy HS, Shannon MS and Wheaton HS / Sept. 4

**Subject Line:** Joint Community Notification of Serious Incident Involving Students Requiring Police Involvement

Dear Families and Caregivers of the Kennedy High, Odessa Shannon Middle and Wheaton High School Communities,

Today, we, the three principals of John F. Kennedy High School, Odessa Shannon Middle School and Wheaton High School, were made aware by the Montgomery County Police Department of a serious incident in the community yesterday afternoon, Tuesday, Sept. 3. The police were called to respond to the Glenmont Circle area of Silver Spring for a gun-involved incident that resulted in no student injuries. Police have reported that two students were arrested for their involvement.

The investigation and any resulting actions are a police matter, not a school disciplinary matter, per the memorandum of understanding between Montgomery County Public Schools and the Montgomery County Police Department.

It is important to note that MCPS cannot share any other information due to student privacy law. Student privacy regulations are not a matter of arbitrary discretion but are firmly established by federal law, specifically the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). While this may understandably pose frustrations, particularly in contexts where transparency is desired, it's crucial to recognize that these regulations are in place to uphold the safety and privacy rights of all students, even those who may be subjects of a criminal investigation.

Ensuring the safety and security of our students is not just a priority, but a daily commitment for the MCPS staff. We are fully dedicated to the ongoing collaboration between the MCPS Department of Systemwide Safety and the Montgomery County Police Department, working to create a secure environment for our students and staff.

We also ask that you reinforce at home that violence is not ever a good choice to resolve conflict; students should reach out to a trusted adult at home or in school to seek help in resolving conflict.

Respectfully,

Vicky Adamson Principal	Natasha Booms Principal	Pamela W Krawczel Principal
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John F. Kennedy High School	Odessa Shannon Middle School	Wheaton High School
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