

Caledonia Community Schools

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JERRY PHILLIPS, Superintendent ~ RANDY RODRIGUEZ, Director of Curriculum and Instruction ~ SAM WRIGHT, Finance Manager

September 23, 2011

Dear Parents,

This past week, a neighboring school district has experienced two incidents that we in Caledonia can learn from. The first incident is that a person showed up at a school building and went directly to a child's classroom. The person was said to be a stranger. The teacher of the class followed the school policy perfectly by sending the person to the office to sign out the child. The person never went to the office but left the building. Our teachers in Caledonia are instructed to do the same. Our hope is that no parent, relative or friend tries to bypass the sign out process at the school office. All of these procedures are for the safety of your child/ren. Please also talk to your children to never go with a friend or relative unless you have given them specific instructions of this prior to pickup. If your family has an emergency that happens during the day and you need to send someone to pick up your child, please call the school office so we can verify and get the message to your child. Our ultimate goal is a safe environment for your child/ren. All of our schools have specific drop off and pick up procedures. Please follow them so a security breach does not happen. Your follow through is greatly appreciated by the staff, administration and all the other parents.

The second incident in the same district deals with carrying a registered weapon on school property. The law states that an individual can ONLY carry such a weapon during drop off and pick up of a student. What happened is a parent dropped off their child and then parked their car in the parking lot and went to sleep. Authorities were called when someone noticed a sleeping adult in the parking lot. When the officer arrived, he knocked on the window and was told by the parent that he had a little time before an appointment and decided to take a snooze. The parent did not immediately inform the officer that he was carrying a registered weapon. It is the law that this is the first thing that must be disclosed to an officer. This was only discovered during further questioning that a weapon was in his possession. The officer then took the weapon to his car to run the permit and the gun number. This exchange was viewed by adults and students which caused another problem when a gun was spotted. The parent was given a citation for having a concealed weapon on school property and not disclosing it to the officer. We can all learn from this situation. If you do carry a registered weapon, please be aware that it cannot come with you to school or school events. Only certain occupations are exempt from this rule. Any visibility of such a weapon will in today's society, cause a high level of concern and will involve the authorities. If ever stopped by an officer it should be the first thing you disclose to the officer to avoid a citation.

I appreciate your concern in regard to the above situations. I ask that we all work together to provide the safest environment for your child/ren to learn and grow. Please feel free to contact me with any questions. I can be reached at 891-8185.

Sincerely

Jerry Phillips

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