



CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY SCHOOLS

Office of the Superintendent
1562 Dairy Road
Charlottesville, VA 22903
(434) 245-2400
Fax (434) 245-2603
www.charlottesvilleschools.org

January 23, 2013

Dear Families,

Safeguarding our students and schools requires the active partnership of students, staff and parents. Part of this partnership involves making sure parents are informed when issues arise at Charlottesville City Schools regarding school safety. The purpose of this letter is to share information about an incident on a school bus yesterday. We hope this information helps you accurately answer your child's questions.

On Tuesday, a student reportedly discharged a ~~bb gun~~ an air-soft gun while riding home on a school bus. The administration was notified about this after school hours, at which point Charlottesville City Police Department was notified. The school has begun discipline procedures with the involved student. In this kind of situation, the police investigation and student confidentiality requirements limit the amount of information we can share. We ask for your understanding in this regard.

We encourage you to reassure your child that their safety is of paramount importance to the school staff. We have a safety plan in place and regularly practice drills to be prepared for any incident. It also is important to emphasize your child's role in keeping our school safe. Encourage your child to tell a school administrator or a teacher if they have information or hear rumors that cause them concern about safety at school. Let them know the school will promptly investigate and maintain confidentiality. Speaking up is often the best prevention.

Again, your child's physical and emotional well-being is of the utmost importance to our school staff. If you would like to discuss your child's response to this incident or our safety plans, please call the school administration. Our doors are always open to you – please know that we address our task of keeping your child safe while helping them achieve their potential with heart-felt diligence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dr. Rosa S. Atkins".

Rosa S. Atkins, Ed.D.
Division Superintendent