



WJSHS

Westport Junior/Senior High School

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*Mitchel G. Aho M.Ed.
Principal*

*Karen Archambault - Assistant Principal
Bryan Oliveira - Dean of Students*

May 15, 2019

Dear Westport Jr. Sr. High School Students, Parent, Guardians and Community Members,

Westport Jr Sr. High School is committed to providing all students and staff a school environment that is safe, supported and secure in order to ensure high quality teaching and learning take place daily. In April, I shared with the staff proactive measures to ensure all members of the WJSH Community have such an environment. It is with that hope, that I write today to make all members of the community aware of the steps that have been taken.

Today, Friday, May 17, 2019, Firefighter Glenn Nunes provided an educational assembly to our students on the dangers of vaporizers, vaping and other health concerns. In addition, in coordination with the Westport Police Department and other public safety officials conducted a proactive sweep of the building which involved the use of K-9 units. While this practice is common place in many public schools throughout the commonwealth, including many schools in southeastern Massachusetts, this practice has not been conducted at Westport for some time. As a result, I believe it is important to share with the community that moving forward additional sweeps will take place.

Today, trained Officers and K-9 units conducted a search of all areas of our campus, including hallways, student lockers, parking lots, and randomly selected classrooms. All students and staff in those randomly selected rooms were relocated while the sweep was conducted, while all belonging were left behind in the secure classroom. It is important to note that intent of the sweep today was not to "catch" anyone but to rather serve the community as a proactive deterrent. Those students who were found to be possession of the controlled substance or contraband were subjected to appropriate school disciplinary consequences and/or appropriate legal consequences.

In closing, we appreciate your cooperation and support as we continue to partner with Westport Public Safety Officials in to order to ensure a safe, supportive school is maintained for all students and staff. Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to reach out to us at 508-636-1050.

Sincerely,

Mitchel G. Aho
Principal