



December 8, 2011

Dear Parents and Guardians:

On the reverse side of this letter is a news release from the Anne Arundel County Police Department regarding the arrest of one of our teachers, Jeffrey Sears. The information regarding Mr. Sears' arrest that is able to be released is contained in the release. This letter is intended to inform you about the role of our school and school system in this matter, and the steps we have taken to date.

We want you to know that we have acted swiftly and aggressively throughout this situation. Mr. Sears was reassigned immediately upon our learning of the first allegation, and has been in a position where he has had no contact with students since that time. With the filing of these charges, a recommendation will be made to the Board of Education that he be suspended without pay pending termination.

Our school and school system have – and will continue – to provide the appropriate resources to any student or staff member who is affected by this situation. We encourage you to discuss this matter with your children as well, and to contact our school counselors if your child needs support.

Any allegation of wrongdoing against a school employee is troubling. When the allegation is of a sexual nature, it is exponentially more disturbing. While it is natural to have an emotional reaction, we would urge you to remember that this is a sensitive situation that involves children. Our school and school system will continue to do everything it can to support our students and their families.

The sole focus of our school-based staff continues to be doing everything we can to help every child at Glen Burnie High School achieve his or her full potential. This is a caring and supportive community, and we are very proud of the work we are doing together. That togetherness is what will sustain us in this difficult time. We ask you to continue to help us help our children become the successful adults we know they can be.

We hope you understand that we cannot discuss specific details of the ongoing investigation. We will do our best to address any concerns you may have, however. Please feel free to call the school at 410-761-8950 if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Kevin M. Maxwell, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Vickie Plitt
Principal

KMM/VP/bm



**ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT
MEDIA RELATIONS OFFICE**

NEWS RELEASE

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Chief of Police

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8495 Veterans Highway
Millersville, Md. 21108-1485

Date: December 8th 2011

Release Time:

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION

SEXUAL CHILD ABUSE ARREST

GLEN BURNIE

On November 1, 2011, the Anne Arundel County Board of Education contacted the Department of Social Services regarding an allegation of a possible sexual relationship between a teacher and a student at Glen Burnie High School. The Anne Arundel County Board of Education immediately removed the teacher from his assignment, pending the outcome of the investigation.

Detectives from the Anne Arundel County Police Department's Criminal Investigation Division began investigating the allegation. During the course of the investigation, which included collecting and analyzing evidence, conducting numerous witness and victim interviews and executing search warrants of residences, a total of three female victims were identified. It was determined that all three victims had sexual relations with the teacher while they were attending Glen Burnie High School. The incidents took place both on and off of campus and during regular school hours and off hours. The victims were between the ages of 15 and 16 years old at the time of the offenses, which occurred from November of 2009 through October of 2011.

The Anne Arundel County Police Department's Criminal Investigation Division, the Anne Arundel County Department of Social Services, the Anne Arundel County Board of Education, and the Anne Arundel County State's Attorney's Office worked closely together to conduct a thorough investigation into this matter.

The suspect, **Jeffrey Robert Sears Jr., 29, of 408 Luther Road in Glen Burnie, Maryland**, was taken into custody at the Eastern District police station in Pasadena on December 8, 2011, at approximately 8:15 a.m. After consultation with the Anne Arundel County State's Attorney's Office, the suspect was charged with multiple counts of Sexual Abuse of a Minor, multiple counts of Fourth Degree Sex Offense, Third Degree Sex Offense, multiple counts of

Perverted Practice, Sexual Solicitation of a Minor, First Degree Assault and multiple counts of Second Degree Assault. Any additional victims or witnesses are urged to contact Detective Erin Brandt of the Anne Arundel County Police Department's Criminal Investigation Division at 410-222-3482.

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