

December 6, 2011

Dear Parents and Guardians:

As Assistant Principal Gina Davenport wrote in a letter to you on Friday, county police and our school system have been investigating a report of a sexual assault that allegedly occurred last week. This letter is to make you aware that one of our students has now been charged in connection with that incident, and to reassure you that we continue to do everything we can to ensure the safety of our students and staff.

Details about the charges can be found in the police news release on the back of this letter. Because this is an ongoing investigation, we are unable to offer further details or comments except to say that the student who is now charged has not been in school since the allegation first came to our attention.

I also want to reiterate what Ms. Davenport communicated on Friday: the Student Safety Hotline run by our school system is an invaluable tool to assist in these kinds of situations. I urge you to talk with your child about this incident, and help them to understand that communication is an incredibly powerful force that can not only ensure that incidents are handled properly when they do occur, but prevent some incidents from occurring in the first place. Please encourage your child to reach out to a responsible adult or the Student Safety Hotline (1-877-676-9854) if they have concerns about their own safety or the safety of others.

I am very proud of the supportive climate we have created together at Arundel High School, and it certainly is disheartening when any incident like this occurs. However, we must continue to work together to ensure that our focus remains on the education and betterment of all of our children.

As always, thank you for everything you do for your child and our school. Please do not hesitate to contact the school at 410-674-6500 if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

Sharon Stratton
Principal

SS/bm



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

DAILY PRESS BRIEF

Colonel James Teare, Sr.
Chief of Police

Public Information Officer: Mr. Justin Mulcahy

Office: (410) 222-8700

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8495 Veterans Highway
Millersville, Md. 21108-1485

Date: December 6th 2011

Release Time: 1010 hours

WESTERN DISTRICT

SEXUAL ASSAULT UPDATE

GAMBRILLS

On November 28, 2011, at approximately 3:34 p.m., officers from the Western District responded to an address in Crofton after the Department was contacted by the Board of Education about a possible sexual assault of an Arundel High School student that took place earlier on school grounds. The Board of Education indicated that they received an anonymous call about the incident.

Officers made contact with a female student of the high school, who reported that she was sexually assaulted by a male Arundel High School student during the course of the school day inside one of the bathrooms of the school. The suspect was known to the victim. At this time, the incident remains under investigation by the Criminal Investigation Division. The Police Department is working closely with school officials, who are taking the appropriate measures to prevent any contact between the victim and suspect as the investigation continues.

UPDATE:

On December 5, 2011, after consultation with the State's Attorney's Office, detectives from the Criminal Investigation Division responded to the suspect's residence in Odenton and charged the 14-year-old male suspect with Attempted Second Degree Rape, Second Degree Sex Assault and Second Degree Sex Offense. The suspect was served on a juvenile citation and released to the custody of a relative.