

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

101 Peachtree Road  
Basking Ridge, New Jersey 07920  
www.bernardsboe.com

NICK MARKARIAN  
Superintendent of Schools

Phone: 908-204-2600  
Fax: 908-766-7641  
e-mail: [nmarkarian@bernardsboe.com](mailto:nmarkarian@bernardsboe.com)

---

February 13, 2015

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Today the Bernards Township School District worked in cooperation with the local Bernards Township Police Department, the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office and K-9 teams from the Somerset County Sheriff's Office, the Morris County Sherriff's Office, the Warren Township Police Department and the New Jersey State Police to conduct a canine drug sweep at Ridge High School. More information is provided for you on page two of this correspondence where you will find the official press release.

As you know we take the health and safety of our students very seriously and we hope that today's activities help to underscore how much we care about our students. Furthermore, we encourage parents to use today's events as an opportunity to talk to their children about the dangers of using drugs. I would like to take this opportunity to let you know that I personally observed the teamwork of the many adult professionals that worked very hard to complete this operation. Top to bottom I was thoroughly impressed with the work of our teachers, police officers and school administrators. The coordinated planning and execution efforts by all to do a great job were amazing, and I was privileged to have the chance to see it all happening.

I also wanted to let you know that your children behaved in a way that you should all feel very proud of. At no time during the procedure did I see or hear of any student who was uncooperative. The children did a wonderful job of following instructions and really making it easy for everyone to do their jobs. I wanted to share this with you as something positive for you to discuss with your children on what was a rather unusual day for them. Please let your child know that their help in making things go smoothly was something that all the adults were impressed by. Thank you for your patience and support as a parent as we work to implement procedures and policies to send the right messages to our youth about controlled dangerous substances. Enjoy a restful long weekend.

Sincerely,



Nick Markarian



---

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **K-9 Drug Sweep Conducted at Ridge High School**

BERNARDS TOWNSHIP - The Bernards Township Board of Education in cooperation with the Bernards Township Police Department, in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding regarding illegal substances, conducted a K-9 narcotics sweep of Ridge High School on Friday, February 13, 2015. The Board of Education and the Bernards Township Police Department were privileged to have the support of the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office and K-9 teams from the Somerset County Sheriff's Office, the Morris County Sheriff's Office, the Warren Township Police Department and the New Jersey State Police. The Board of Education and the Bernards Township Police Department extend the sincerest gratitude to all of these assisting agencies whose support made this operation possible.

K-9 teams checked portions of the interior of the high school, targeting main hallway lockers, a large study hall, and the student parking lot after the administration placed the building into "shelter in place." No classrooms were entered and teachers were allowed to continue their instruction. The "shelter in place" lasted approximately 2 hours. As a result, one arrest was made for possession of a controlled dangerous substance.

The Board of Education utilized this K-9 sweep as a measure to ensure that the safety and well-being of our students are preserved. The objective of this operation was to deter students from bringing controlled dangerous substances to the school and to impress the message of law enforcement and the Board of Education's stance on zero-tolerance on illegal drugs and drug abuse. The Bernards Township Board of Education will continue to cooperate with local law enforcement and utilize every resource to ensure that Bernards Township remains a drug-free school and deters future contraband.

The Bernards Township Board of Education will hold a meeting on February 23, 2015 at the William Annin Middle School to address any parental concerns. As part of that meeting, the Bernards Township Police Department in conjunction with the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office will be present to answer concerns.

###