

# Dedham Middle School

## OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL

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November 18, 2021

Dear Dedham Middle School Families,

I am writing to you tonight to bring to your attention an incident that occurred at school late today. During a physical education class taking place outside, two students alerted their teacher that a student had shown them a knife. The teacher reported this to Ms. Pagnotta who responded immediately. While investigating this further, we discovered that two additional students had knives in their backpacks located in their lockers. These three incidents were unrelated to each other.

I contacted Dedham Police Officer Neil Cronin who responded to the school and assisted further. Families of all three students were called, meetings held late this afternoon and into this evening, and appropriate disciplinary measures have been assigned to all students involved.

Let me be clear that any dangerous object, in this case a knife, should never be brought to school. Regardless of circumstances, these objects have no place on our school campus. Any individual found in possession of a dangerous object or weapon will face serious consequences through the Dedham Public Schools as well as Dedham Police and the juvenile court system.

Situations like these can feel unsettling for students and families. I am providing this information to all parents in an effort to keep you fully informed as partners in our school's culture and climate. Safety is always our highest priority, and I want to thank our students, teachers, Officer Cronin, and Ms. Pagnotta who all contributed to a safe resolution. Please discuss with your children how important it is that anytime they see something that is not appropriate, they should tell a trusted adult immediately.

As always, please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you,  
Karen

**Dedham Public Schools**

**DEDHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Karen Hillman

*Principal*

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