

HORICON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
HORICON, WI 53032

**RE: USE OF DRUG SNIFFING DOG**

Ensuring that the students attending Horicon schools have a safe, drug free, and healthy environment in which to learn and grow is a top priority for all who work in your schools. It is the priority of the Board of Education, and, we believe, a true reflection of our community's values and expectations.

Due to increased incidents of marijuana possession, use, and distribution by young people, the School District of Horicon is taking action to keep illicit drugs out of the schools. One of the ways to assist school personnel in detecting drugs in the school is the use of specially trained dogs who are able to sniff out drugs. The dogs used are highly specialized and certified for this purpose. **It is the intention of school district officials to periodically use a police canine dog in conjunction with the local police department to check for drugs in our schools.**

How will this be done? On a day known only to administration and the police, the dog will be brought to the school to sniff places where things may be stored. This would include street lockers, gym lockers, and may include the parking lot. It will not include sniffing any students. If the dog identifies a specific locker, it will be noted, and searched by school personnel based on the reasonable suspicion created by the sniffer dog. If contraband is found, the police will be called back in; if nothing is found it is reasonable to suspect that at some prior time contraband may have been there. Student and parents/guardians will be notified of the search and the results of the search.

The federal government legislated that schools will exist in drug free zones, and raised the penalties for the presence of drugs there. Certainly it is the right of students and teachers to expect that they can learn and teach in a drug free environment. When the school is drug free, it has a safer and healthier environment, and is more likely to be free of intimidation, threats, and victimization. The position of the School District and the Horicon Police Department is to have zero tolerance for those who would try to make the schools less than healthy places to grow and learn. It is with this goal in mind that we undertake these steps as a part of a program to prevent illicit drugs in our schools. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please call a building administrator.

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