

## **Johnson City Central School District – Statement on Use of Searches and Detection Strategies**

Updated Feb. 2024

Providing the safest environment for students and staff is always a major focus and a priority for the Johnson City Central School District. Because of this, we pledge to continue our vigilance in providing training, drills and exercises to improve our emergency procedures and maintain the highest level of safety and security. As part of these trainings and preventative measures, consistent with school policy and law, the district reserves the right to conduct random searches of cars, bags, backpacks, other materials and personal belongings, that are not otherwise clear or transparent, as well as any persons entering school buildings, regular and random searches at our discretion to mitigate illegal substances or weapons, as well as the use of K-9 units in assisting the detection of illegal contraband or substances. Your support is greatly appreciated as we strive to maintain the safest environment for our students and staff.

The district has partnered with Johnson City, Binghamton and neighboring Broome County Sheriff's and State Police departments to bring specially trained non-aggressive canines onto our campus and into our schools in an effort to deter illegal contraband substances from entering our educational hallways and classrooms. Though the main purpose of this program is to deter students from bringing illegal substances to school, it also serves as the least intrusive means of keeping our students and staff safe by locating and removing any illegal contraband.

During random K-9 campus visits, the dogs will sniff the air around lockers, hallways, libraries, gym areas, restrooms, and school grounds for potential contraband items.

### **K-9'S ARE TRAINED TO DETECT THE ODOR OF THE FOLLOWING SUBSTANCES:**

- \*ILLICIT DRUG ODORS: marijuana, cocaine, methamphetamine, heroin, and opium
- \*ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES: wine, beer, whiskey, etc. (Open or closed containers)
- \*GUNPOWDER BASED ITEMS: ammunition, guns and fireworks
- \*PRESCRIPTION MEDS: Canines are NOT trained to detect OTC or RX meds however they may react to some RX pain meds that have common opiates.
- \*RESIDUAL ODOR: any one of the above was previously present. The substance does NOT have to be present for the canine to detect the odor if the substance was previously present or 'spilled' on the item.

If a vacated classroom is checked, students will be asked to exit the classroom for 5 to 8 minutes while school personnel accompany the canine team. With an administrator, or teacher present, the canine team will sniff the interior of the room including the air around any belongings left behind. This includes backpacks, purses etc. (AT NO TIME DOES A SEARCH UNDER THE 4TH ADMENDMENT TAKE PLACE IN THE STUDENTS ABSENCE).

Our procedures preclude the use of K-9's to sniff any student, employee, visitor or anyone else while on district property, or at any district event. All PD canines are friendly, non-aggressive and passive trained, to sit on odor they are trained to detect.

Thank you for your support as we pledge to maintain a safe and healthy school environment free from contraband.