



Hanover County Sheriff's Office

Colonel V. Stuart Cook, Sheriff

News Release

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Today several middle and high schools were searched for narcotics by the Hanover County Sheriff's Office in cooperation with Hanover County Public Schools.

The Sheriff's Office utilized a total of nine canines, trained to detect drugs, from multiple jurisdictions, to include the Department of Corrections, the Powhatan County Sheriff's Office, the Henrico Division of Police, and the City of Richmond Police Department.

During the searches, each school was put on lockdown, which allowed all students and staff to remain in the classrooms during the search. The canines were then allowed to access all common areas of each school, including the parking lots. The team worked together, which kept the lockdown period brief. As a result of the searches one student was charged and there is another case under investigation.

The purpose of these searches is to detect narcotics and ensure our schools are drug free. Also by utilizing the lockdown procedure, the school staff and students are provided an opportunity to practice emergency procedures in the event of an actual critical incident.

"These procedures are evidence of the commitment the Sheriff's Office and Hanover Schools have to ensure our youth have a safe learning environment. We are also thankful for the assistance rendered by our neighboring jurisdictions in allowing us to utilize their resources. It is through these partnerships that we can become more effective in maintaining the safety and security of our schools," said Colonel V. Stuart Cook.

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