

SEARCH & SEIZURE

OUR PHILOSOPHY

A safe and secure school environment is a primary concern for all of us. When cause exists that threatens the health, safety, or welfare of our students, we are obligated to act accordingly. Consequently, SMASD reserves the right and has the legal authority to conduct searches of people, lockers, vehicles, and property when justified or warranted. Law enforcement personnel may be included to conduct canine searches when legal consequences may result based on the findings.

TYPES OF SEARCHES

1. Locker Search

Lockers are the property of the SMASD and students have no expectation for privacy with regard to the contents of a locker. Students are responsible for the condition and the contents of their lockers.

2. Vehicle Search

A search of a vehicle located on school property may be conducted to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the students and the educational process. The Principal and/or the School Resource Officer will participate in the search.

3. Canine Search

Periodically, the St. Marys Police Department and their canine unit will conduct a search on school property to detect drug and/or alcohol on the premises. These searches are under the direction of the local police department, they will be unannounced, and they may occur several times during the school year.

4. Personal Search

A personal search of a student and his/her property may be conducted when sufficient cause exists to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the student(s). A personal search may be conducted by the Building Principals and/or the School Resource Officer.

JUSTIFICATION OF SEARCH: Except when conducting a school safety check normally involving the canine unit, searches will only occur if suspicion or cause exists and only with the approval of the Building Principal or the School Resource Officer.

POLICE INVOLVEMENT: When a search uncovers unlawful or illegal items or behavior, parents will be notified immediately and the matter will be referred to the St. Marys Police Department. School and legal consequences may result.

SUMMARY: *Every effort is made to protect personal freedom and the right to student privacy. However the health, safety, and welfare of our students will always be our top priority. We feel that learning cannot occur unless students feel safe and secure when they are here. The right to conduct legal and appropriate searches when justified is a part of providing that security.*