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# Menands Union Free School District



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April 19, 2018

Dear Parents and Community Members,

On Wednesday, April 18, a Menands student brought an unloaded BB gun to school in a backpack. The student never threatened use of the BB gun and, based on the information we have at this time, there is no indication that it was removed from the backpack at any time. An alert Menands staff member who was supervising students in an afterschool activity became aware of the situation after overhearing a conversation among some of the students. The staff member immediately brought the student and backpack to my office, at which time I called the Menands Police Department. Officers promptly dispatched to our school were able to confirm that the item was a BB gun and that it was not loaded. Appropriate security measures were taken and at no point were any students or staff in harm's way. The student indicated that the BB gun was accidentally left in the backpack and unintentionally brought onto school grounds. Nevertheless, possession of a BB gun violates the District's Code of Conduct and will be addressed accordingly.

Nothing is more important than keeping our students and staff safe in school. BB guns are not toys and do not belong in school. It is important for all of us – our students, staff and visitors to our campus – to say something whenever we encounter something that may create an unsafe situation.

Thank you.

**Dr. Maureen A. Long**  
Superintendent of Schools