



WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

KEITH SEXTON, SHERIFF

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Welcome to the 2022-23 School Year,

In partnership with the community, the Washington County Sheriff's Office provides School Resource Officers to foster an environment of safety and provide security in our schools. Bullying in person or cyberbullying will not be tolerated.

I am asking you in advance and would greatly appreciate your cooperation in this anti-bullying campaign.

Students learn better when they feel they're in a safe and secure environment. To encourage an environment conducive to learning, WCSO will take steps to deal with students who engage in serious fighting at school and/or posting fight videos on social media.

Violence on school grounds or in school vehicles simply will not be tolerated. Harassment via social media will not be tolerated. Regardless of what the school system does to those involved in fights or those posting fight videos on social media, I assure you WCSO will apply the rule of law to each incident.

What Can WCSO Charge Students with for Fighting?

While an individual does have a right to defend themselves, anyone who actively engages in assaulting another may be charged with disorderly conduct, assault or other laws that may apply.

How About Those Sharing Fight Videos on Social Media?

Posting acts of violence towards students on social media is harassment and will be treated as such. Additionally, anyone who posts fight videos on social media will have their own videos used as evidence against them, and this may include their phones being confiscated as evidence.

What Are the Consequences?

Once charged, your underage student will appear in Juvenile Court. If your student is over the age of 18, they will appear in Sessions Court. For those found guilty, penalties may include probation, fines, court costs and potentially jail time.

Fights and the videoing of fights on school premises, buses, activity vans or during sporting events impact more than just the students involved. All students have an expectation and a right to attend school and participate in activities in a safe environment.

Fighting often results in unpredictable and dangerous situations for other students, faculty and staff, and will simply not be tolerated this year.

It is our duty as law enforcement officers to enforce the law, and we are committed to keep all students safe from harm.

Sincerely,

Keith Sexton, Sheriff

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FIRST NATIONALLY ACCREDITED SHERIFF'S OFFICE IN TENNESSEE