

News Release: Greene County Public Schools concludes investigation into William Monroe High School vandalism

Chad Saylor <csaylor@greencountyschools.com>

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NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Contact: Chad Saylor
434-939-9000**

May 17, 2023

Greene County Public Schools concludes investigation into William Monroe High School vandalism

STANARDSVILLE, Va. – Greene County Public Schools has concluded its investigation into the vandalism that occurred Thursday evening at William Monroe High School.

Division leaders investigated the incident alongside high school administrators, the Greene County Sheriff's Office and the Greene County Commonwealth's Attorney.

Several high school students entered the high school at approximately 11:00 p.m. Thursday using a high school teacher's key fob. Over the next two hours, about 50-60 additional students entered the building through propped doors. While inside the building, students vandalized school property, resulting in approximately \$7,000 in damage. The majority of the damage required professional cleaning services to clean and sanitize common spaces and restrooms.

The Greene County Sheriff's Office was contacted by one of the students who entered the building, and officers arrived at the school Friday at about 1:15 a.m.

Division and high school staff initiated the investigation and cleanup of the school throughout Friday and over the weekend. High school administrators also conducted a survey of all entry points and found them to be secure. As a result of the investigation, the students who vandalized the building will be responsible for restitution and community service, and some students have additional consequences.

"We are disappointed that several students made the poor choice to vandalize school property," said Dr. Andrea Whitmarsh, superintendent of Greene County Public Schools. "This behavior is not aligned with the conduct and behavior we expect from our student body. As a result, these students will be held accountable for their actions."

After consulting with the Greene County Sheriff's Office and the Greene County Commonwealth's Attorney, it was decided that no charges would be filed against the students at this time.

“We sincerely appreciate the assistance of Sheriff Smith’s office, our school resource officers and the Commonwealth’s Attorney, and we thank them for their support during this investigation,” said Whitmarsh.

All remaining high school academic, athletic, and extracurricular activities, including senior graduation on May 20, will go forward as planned.

For more information, please contact Chad Saylor, Greene County Public Schools Coordinator of Communications, at 434-939-9000 or csaylor@greencountyschools.com.

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About Greene County Public Schools

The Greene County Public Schools District is located in historic Greene County, Virginia. We are a community of 475 dedicated and passionate educators and administrators working collaboratively with parents, families, and the community to empower over 2,800 students in grades K-12 for lifelong success. Our mission is to engage all students through learning that is innovative, personalized, and relevant.

Chad Saylor
Coordinator of Communications
Greene County Public Schools
csaylor@greencountyschools.com
434-939-9000 x1045 (office)
757-615-3486 (cell)

"Empowering our community's children for lifelong success"