

Media Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Karen Bridgeman, Communications Director
Phone: (865) 463-2800 x 2860 – FAX: (865) 457-7019
Email: kbridgeman@acs.ac

WOMAN ARRESTED AT CLINTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Clinton police officers arrested an Anderson County woman at Clinton Middle School Monday after she arrived at the school to purchase prescription drugs from a student.

Clinton Middle School Principal Bob Stokes said school officials learned that a student was in possession of Opana, a narcotic pain medicine, and another student had been sending text messages about its availability.

“During the investigation, which also included two cell phone violations, we were able to retrieve text messages indicating that a woman planned to come to the school under the pretext of signing her child out for an appointment so that the transaction could take place,” Stokes said.

When the woman arrived at CMS, she was taken into custody by CPD detectives Vaughn Becker and Russell Barker and arrested for attempting to purchase Schedule II narcotics from a juvenile.

“We worked with our school resource officer Brian Galloway, the Anderson County Sheriff’s Office, and the Clinton Police Department,” Stokes said. “There was good cooperation from all involved.”

After further investigation, additional students were interviewed by school officials. Stokes said that, as a result, four students – all eighth-graders – have been expelled under the Anderson County Schools’ zero-tolerance policy for students who possess, use, exchange, receive, or negotiate for any drugs, legal or illegal.

“We have about 700 students in our school, kids who are doing wonderful, amazing things to further themselves,” Stokes said.

“We will not tolerate behavior that puts our students at risk.”

Stokes said the investigation is continuing to ensure that others involved in the sale, trade, or distribution of prescription drugs are identified and held accountable.

“Parents and grandparents, neighbors and friends of our kids need to understand that the abuse of medication prescribed for others is an issue for children.

“When I was a kid, ‘child-proof’ caps on medicine bottles were invented to protect kids.

“There isn’t a ‘teen-age-proof’ cap, and adults need to be aware of this serious concern.”

ACS serves 7,000 students in nine elementary schools, four middle schools, two high schools, a career and technical center, a K-12 alternative school, and a pre-school/Head Start program. The school system also provides an adult education program.

ACS employs more than 1000 teachers, education assistants, and support and administrative staff and operates on an annual budget of approximately \$64 million in local, state, and federal funds.

For more information, visit www.acs.ac or call 463-2800, ext. 2860.

-End-