



# MEDIA RELEASE

December 21, 2021

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Student Arrested on School Bus After Leaving East Middle School

GREAT FALLS, MT – Today, at approximately 3:10 p.m. Great Falls Police were notified a student on a school bus had shown other students a gun. The call to police came from a family member who had been notified from a student who was actually on the bus. East Middle School's School Resource Officer (SRO) responded and located the bus near 17<sup>th</sup> Street and 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue South. The SRO located the student on the bus and determined he was in possession an air soft gun. Possession of an air soft gun, although not illegal, is a violation of the Great Falls Public Schools' policy. According to Superintendent Tom Moore, the school district will continue investigating the matter, which could result in action by the school administration.

Additionally, through the SRO's investigation, it was determined probable cause existed to charge the student with Disorderly Conduct. The student is a 13-year-old East Middle School Student. Based on Montana State Law, a physical arrest would not be appropriate in this circumstance. The student was cited and released to his mother.

The Great Falls Police Department and the Great Falls Public Schools continue to take threats to our schools and our students seriously. In this case, the SRO was able to respond immediately and confirm the report, which is not always the case. The student who immediately reported this behavior to a family member should be commended. Again, parents and guardians please talk to your students about communicating any threatening behavior to a responsible adult.

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