



North Mac CUSD #34

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Friday, February 10, 2023

Dear Panther Nation,

It is with grave concern that I share this letter with you today. Earlier this morning, at North Mac High School, two students were found to be in possession and under the influence of marijuana. Upon further investigation and testing by the Virden Police Department, the marijuana was found to be positive for the opioid fentanyl. To be clear, the testing was completed twice with field test kits and not sent to a laboratory. Still the police are very confident in the field test kits' accuracy and we feel very strongly for the safety of our entire community this information needs to be shared. Please talk with your children about the dangers drug use comes with. There are no "safe" drugs that can be considered harmless. We are fairly certain our students did not know they were ingesting fentanyl. Fentanyl laced drugs and even more harmless items continue to show up in small communities like ours nationwide. We implore you to speak with your children and take necessary steps to combat this danger.

North Mac High School has taken steps to respond to a suspected fentanyl overdose by having Narcan, a life-saving drug that combats the effects of opioids, on site. Last week the high school staff was provided the first step in training on identification of opioid overdoses as well as the administration of Narcan. Planned for next week are student assemblies with each grade level, 9-12, discussing the dangers of opioid use.

Although we feel we are making progress in our ability to respond to the opioid crisis, we certainly would rather not put our interventions to the test. Please speak with your children regarding this crisis. If they or anyone you know need assistance there are many resources at your disposal including the Macoupin County Public Health Department. You can find out more information on the dangers of opioid use and how to find assistance by using the following link: [Growing Opioid Epidemic | Macoupin County Public Health Department \(mcphd.net\)](https://www.mcphd.net)

Sincerely,

Kyle M. Hacke, Superintendent

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