



SMETHPORT AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Administration Office

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September 18, 2025

Dear Parents, Caregivers, Families, and Students,

I am reaching out to inform you that this morning (September 18, 2025) a 20-gauge hunting shotgun was found embedded in a small stream located directly on the property boundary between private property and Smethport Area School District grounds approximately 200 yards behind the high school. The high school student who found the hunting shotgun was a member of a class conducting a stream study in the area with a high school teacher and fellow classmates present.

School administration immediately investigated and were assisted by the Smethport Borough Police on campus. The shotgun appeared rusted over with the pump action seized. While it is unknown how long the hunting shotgun was in the stream, law enforcement on site estimated that the shotgun may have been embedded in the stream for over a year. Law enforcement took possession of the shotgun from school staff and are investigating the incident.

At no point were there any issues, concerns, or any indication of an immediate threat to our school campus.

The safety and security of our students and staff is our top priority and we will continue to take the appropriate measures to ensure our schools are safe. We appreciate the support of SASD staff, Smethport Borough Police, and the McKean County District Attorney's office as we create and maintain the level of safety that we want for our school.

Thank you for your continued partnership as we work to ensure a safe, secure, and positive learning environment for our students.

All the best,

Mr. Brice N. Benson
Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Brice N. Benson
Superintendent

Mr. Jeffrey S. Wagner
Business Manager

Mr. Douglas Dickerson
High School Principal

Ms. Kristin J. Zona
Elementary Principal

Mrs. Anna M. Stewart
Assistant Principal / Athletic Director

Mr. Kevin C. Kolivoski
Technology Coordinator