

As you can imagine, student safety is our top priority. Every day, our district is entrusted with your children. It is a responsibility that we take very seriously. It is therefore very distressing to inform you that H.B. DuPont Middle School teacher Gary Smith has been charged with sexual misconduct with a former student.

Allegations of this nature are obviously deeply disturbing to all of us here at Red Clay, and if true, will not be tolerated in any form.

Upon learning of the allegations, the district took several steps to support our students and families. They include:

- Cooperated fully with the State Police by our Office of Public Safety and administration. We will continue to aid the investigation in any way possible.
 - Placed Mr. Smith on administrative leave, pending further information.
 - Notified our Special Services Department that a Crisis Team will be needed at the school. The team consists of school psychologists, counselors and administrators that will be available to speak with students.
 - Informed parents and the community of the situation, once we were assured that statements would not hamper the investigation.
 - Posted information on the school's website about sexual abuse, and some advice on how parents can talk to their children about this sensitive topic.
 - Scheduled an informative meeting for parents and guardians with experts in the field on how to talk with your children about crimes of this nature.
- While we cannot divulge any details about the case, we can assist you in speaking with your children.

I remain confident that the principal and staff at H.B. are committed to the physical and emotional well-being of their students, as well as their academics. Anyone who believes they have additional information regarding Gary Smith is asked to contact the Major Crimes Unit at Troop 2, Glasgow, at 302-365-8567.

Information may also be provided by calling [Delaware Crime Stoppers](#) at 1-800-TIP-3333, via the Internet at www.tipsubmit.com, or by sending an anonymous tip by text to 274637 (CRIMES) using keyword "DSP."

Thank you, as always, for allowing us to educate your children. We will meet this challenge as a community.

District Meeting for HBMS parents and students at John Dickinson High School Auditorium, Tuesday, November 24, 2015 at 6:30pm.