

Walt Whitman High School
7100 Whittier Blvd, Bethesda, MD 20817
240-740-4800



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Dear Walt Whitman High School Community:

I am writing to inform you about the arrest of Mr. Kirkland Shipley, a Walt Whitman High School social studies teacher, on multiple charges related to sexual abuse of a secondary education student and sexual abuse of a minor. The charges stem from alleged sexual contact between Mr. Shipley and a former Walt Whitman High School student in 2018.

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) is fully cooperating with the Metropolitan Police Department of the District of Columbia (MPD) on this ongoing criminal investigation, which may reveal additional victims.

Mr. Shipley, who has been placed on administrative leave, has been employed with MCPS since 2001. In addition to his role as a Whitman social studies teacher, Mr. Shipley has served as the coach of the Whitman Crew Team, a non-school sponsored community club athletic team, since 2002.

These charges are deeply troubling and are a violation of the core values of our school and school system. We hold our employees to a high standard of character and this behavior is completely unacceptable.

We understand that students and staff will have questions and concerns about this arrest and may need to speak with someone to process their feelings in a safe space. Counseling staff will be available to connect with students this week. A list of emails for our counselors and counseling support can be found on the [WWHS Counseling Site](#). Students and families can also call 240-740-4800.

If you or your child has any information that may be helpful to the investigation, I ask that you call the Metropolitan Police Department at 202-727-9099.

We know that speaking with your child about child abuse and neglect can be difficult. MCPS has compiled a list of resources to support students and families in this discussion. These resources are available at <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/childabuseandneglect/#resources>.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Dodd, Ed.D.
Principal
Walt Whitman High School

Resources

- [Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect](#)
- [Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect Fact Sheet](#)
- [Tips for Parents When Talking With Your Children](#)