



Rick Staly, Sheriff

FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

"An honor to serve, a duty to protect."

NEWS RELEASE

Date: Thursday, August 15, 2018

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15 year old Student Threatens School and Self

A fifteen year old female student threatened to harm herself and then others at Buddy Taylor Middle School in Palm Coast after she was disciplined for being out of dress code.

When the teacher addressed the student for being out of dress code, the student engaged in a verbal argument with the teacher and escalated to flipping chairs and throwing desks in the classroom. The student has a history of causing problems in the school. School Resource Deputy (SRD) Petty was called for assistance.

Upon SRD Petty's arrival to the classroom the student then threatened suicide, prompting mental health protocols to include a Baker Act. As SRD Petty was walking the student to the Dean's office she continued comments that she wanted to kill herself, the teacher, the SRD, and students. The fifteen year old then threatened to shoot up the school which prompted Deputies to assess the situation beyond a disruption to school functions, a second degree misdemeanor, to now include threatening to discharge a destructive device, a second degree felony.

The juvenile was Baker Acted and transported for mental health services and charges submitted for the misdemeanor and felony to the State Attorney's Office for prosecution.

"We are doing everything we can to ensure school safety," said Sheriff Rick Staly. "Our Deputies handled the mental health and behavior issues well and hopefully this student will get the help she needs. However, we will not tolerate anyone making threats to harm our students, faculty or schools."

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