



**Rick Staly, Sheriff**

## **FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

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

---

# **NEWS RELEASE**

**Date:** February 22, 2023

**Prepared by:** Ava Hanner, Public Affairs Office

**Phone and Email:** 386-262-8066, [AHanner@flaglersheriff.com](mailto:AHanner@flaglersheriff.com)

**Release #:** 2023 - 38

## **Matanzas High School Student Arrested After Violently Attacking Paraprofessional School Employee**

BUNNELL, FL – On February 21, 2023, the FCSO School Resource Deputies assigned to Matanzas High School were alerted to a paraprofessional employee being physically attacked on campus. Upon arrival, deputies located the female paraprofessional on the ground with severe injuries after an unprovoked attack by a male student.

The student was escorted from the area and later placed in custody. The 17-year-old student was transported to the Sheriff Perry Hall Inmate Detention Facility and later turned over to the Department of Juvenile Justice. The student has been charged with Felony Aggravated Battery with Bodily Harm.

The student stated that he was upset because the victim took his Nintendo Switch away from him during class. On surveillance footage from within the school, the student who is approximately 6'6" and 270 pounds, is shown walking fast toward the victim and pushing the victim several feet, knocking her to the school floor, which knocked her unconscious. The student is then shown kicking and punching the unconscious victim several times in the back and head. Others rushed in to help the victim who was unconscious during the entire assault and unable to protect herself. The victim was transported to a local hospital for treatment of her injuries.

"The actions of this student are absolutely horrendous and completely uncalled for," said Sheriff Rick Staly. "We hope the victim will be able to recover, both mentally and physically, from this incident. Thankfully, students and staff members came to the victim's aid before the SRDs could arrive. Our schools should be a safe place – for both employees and students."

"Creating a safe learning and working environment on our campuses is critical. Violence is never an appropriate reaction," said Flagler Schools Superintendent Cathy Mittelstadt.

*Proudly Serving the Community Since 1917  
A Four Diamond Accredited Law Enforcement Agency*

