



Springbrook High School *International Studies and Technology*

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Arthur Williams, Ed.D., Proud Principal

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September 17, 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians:

I am writing to inform you about the arrest of Mr. Thomas Ridges, a Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) paraeducator and Boys' Junior Varsity Basketball coach at Springbrook High School. Mr. Ridges has been charged with two counts of sexual abuse of a minor and fourth degree sex offense. These charges stem from allegations of inappropriate sexual contact with and advances to a minor over previous summers while he was employed at the Horizon's Childcare Center in Silver Spring. Though these incidents did not occur in his role as an MCPS employee and did not occur on school property, we believe it is important to inform our community.

Mr. Ridges was immediately placed on administrative leave once MCPS was notified of the investigation. We require all who work for MCPS to be held to a high standard of character, and these allegations certainly violate that. The alleged behavior described in the charging documents is upsetting and unacceptable and MCPS is working closely with the Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD) and the Montgomery County State's Attorney's Office on this matter.

Mr. Ridges was hired in September 2005. He worked at Burnt Mills Elementary School as a lunch hour aide from 2005–2006 and at Francis Scott Key Middle School as a lunch hour aide and special education paraeducator from 2006–2007. He has worked at Springbrook High School as a paraeducator since August 2007. He also serves as Springbrook's Boys' Junior Varsity Basketball coach.

If you and your child have any information that may be helpful to the investigation, I ask that you call the Special Victims Investigations Division of the Montgomery County Police Department at 240-773-5400. Thank you for your continued support of our efforts to keep our children safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dr. Williams", written over the word "Sincerely,".

Dr. Arthur Williams

Principal