

Time to get **hbsmart.**

You are here: Sun Home → Collections → **Zero Tolerance**

Ads by Google

[Le Cordon Bleu School](#)

Professional Culinary Education by Le Cordon Bleu Culinary Arts School
www.Chefs.com

[Ft Washington New Homes](#)

New Single Family Homes Near DC Boating & Fishing on Potomac, \$300s
www.TantallonPreserve.com

[Child Bullies & Bullying](#)

What to Do if Your Child Is Bullied in School: How to Deal.
www.ParentsConnect.com/Bullying

[Homeschooling High School](#)

Accredited Home School Grades 6-12. Year-Round Start Dates. Learn More!
www.KeystoneSchoolOnline.com

[Hyatt Masters Food & Wine](#)

Sample The Region's Best Wines At The Masters of Food & Wine Tour.
www.hyatt.com/mastersfoodandwine

Find more stories about

- Zero Tolerance

FEATURED ARTICLES

[Two Easton lacrosse players suspended under zero-tolerance...](#)
May 10, 2011

[Goalkeeper Thornton is Loyola's shutout artist Zach as in...](#)
October 26, 1994

[The Tao Of Winning](#)
May 9, 2001

RELATED LINKS

[Two Easton lacrosse players suspended under zero-tolerance policies](#)

Zero tolerance? Zero common sense

Our view: Suspensions of two lacrosse players over equipment used to repair their sticks reflects school leadership that's afraid to exercise judgment

May 10, 2011



Kim Hairston, Baltimore Sun

Talbot County residents are no doubt sleeping easier after the school system used a policy of zero tolerance for deadly weapons to crack down on two high school lacrosse players who were caught with a small penknife and a lighter used to repair their sticks. However, we feel it important to warn them that they still may not be safe. After all, we hear that the baseball and softball players bring dozens of long, aluminum clubs with them to games and practices. For that matter, children as young as kindergarten routinely carry sharp, wooden sticks, and there are even special machines in virtually every classroom to hone these "pencils" to murderous points.

Absurd? Certainly, but not more so than Talbot County Superintendent Karen Salmon's insistence that the 2-inch pocket knife 17-year-old Graham Dennis had in his bag was a criminal offense that could be punished by up to three years in jail, and that he was getting off easy with just a 10-day suspension (which would have to be reported to any colleges he applies to) instead of outright expulsion. And it's certainly no more absurd than the school board's refusal to hear from the 50 parents who attended a meeting to speak on the boys' behalf on the grounds that it might sway their decision on an appeal of the suspension — perish the thought that they might listen to the opinions of those they are elected to serve.

Ads by Google

[Case Study: Closing Gaps](#)

National stories of schools turning tide against achievement gaps
www.neapriorityschools.org

[School Bullying](#)

Child Being Bullied At School? Learn Benefits Of Online Schooling.
www.K12.com

Advertisement

\$5.00 off your next purchase of \$25 or more

[PRINT COUPON >](#)

bloom

It's entirely appropriate for Talbot County or any other district to have a policy against deadly weapons at school. The problem is in officials' insistence that such a policy prevents them from employing even a modicum of common sense. It is a problem not limited to Talbot County; too often, those in a position of authority appear scared to exercise judgment for fear that they will be criticized and instead seem to wish that every conceivable situation they encounter might be addressed by inviolable rules that they can simply follow. This tendency is abetted by another common dodge, which is a policy against publicly discussing disciplinary or personnel actions. What sounds like a measure to protect the reputation of the accused instead winds up as a way for those in positions of authority to avoid the embarrassment of attempting to explain the inexplicable.

Ads by Google

[Case Study: Closing Gaps](#)

National stories of schools turning tide against achievement gaps
www.neapriorityschools.org

POPULAR TOPICS

- Rachel Cohen
- Kentucky Derby
- Phylicia Barnes
- North American Power
- Parkinson's Disease
- Bin Laden
- Bin Laden Dead
- Osama Bin Laden
- Royal Wedding
- Mothers Day