

PRINCIPAL'S ACADEMY

May 17, 2005

PREPARING THE CHARGES AND EVIDENCE FOR A DISCIPLINE HEARING

Assume that after a thorough investigation you believe the following facts to be true.

Hypothetical No. 1 – Students Sam and Adam have never really gotten along. During an 8th period class, while the teacher has stepped out of the room, Sam uses a large rubber band to shoot a pen across the room at Adam. The pen hits Adam so hard that it leaves a welt. Adam turns to Sam, points and says: “After school – the student parking lot.” About a dozen students follow Sam and Adam to the parking lot in hopes of seeing a fight. Indeed, Adam pushes Sam’s shoulder and says: “Come on tough guy, hit me now if you dare.” Sam does connect with a punch and soon fists are flying. Both Sam and Adam get pretty bruised before some of the other students break up the fight. Eventually Sam and Adam get in their cars. As Adam is leaving the parking lot, Sam accelerates toward him and manages to get going about 35 mph before he slams on the brakes screeching to a halt just next to Adam’s car. A few hand gestures are exchanged but no harm is done.

Hypothetical No. 2 – In 10th Grade European History, Student A is obliged to do a report on the German breaching of the Maginot line during World War II. As part of his report, Student A brings to school a rubber replica of a Luger pistol. The replica looks like the real thing but, of course, cannot actually fire. Before homeroom Student A shows the gun to several of his classmates including Student B. Student B asks to borrow the gun so that he can play a prank on his girlfriend. Student A hands the gun over. Student B walks into his girlfriend’s homeroom, pulls out the gun and points it at his girlfriend saying: “I’ve had it with you – if you won’t marry me it’s over for both you and me.” Hearing Student B speak, the teacher looks up, sees the gun, and reacts by rushing the student from behind. The teacher knocks the gun away and tries to wrestle Student B to the floor. Not knowing what hit him Student B starts swinging back and lands two hard punches on the teacher’s head. Meantime, several other students in the homeroom who were only half paying attention are now caught up in fright and try to run from the classroom. There is a bottleneck at the door and a girl’s leg is broken. One of the students who runs out of the classroom shouts: “He’s got a gun.” The cry is picked up by others in the hallway and soon students are streaming out of the building. Order is restored about 20 minutes later.

Hypothetical No. 3 – During a 12th grade math exam, one of your teachers observes a note being passed from a student, Cindy, to another student, Tom. Thinking cheating is going on the teacher insists that Tom hand over the note. The note reads: “I brought the \$20.00. Do you have the stuff?” When the teacher asks Tom what the stuff is, he refuses to answer. You have long heard rumors about Tom selling marijuana at school. To date, you have not been able to prove those rumors true. You elect to search Tom’s locker. In it you find a bong and three plastic bags which each contain a substance that looks and smells like marijuana. There is also a

piece of paper in Tom's pocket that has five students' names on it. Next to Cindy's name is the figure of \$20.00. There are dollar figures next to the four other student's names and there is the notation "paid" next to two of the names. You have searched the other four students and their lockers. On one of the students marked "paid" you found the same type plastic bag containing what appears to be marijuana. None of the students will cooperate in interviews.