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**-JOINT NEWS RELEASE-
LA PORTE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE/NEW PRAIRIE UNITED SCHOOL
CORPORATION CONDUCT LOCKER SEARCHES**

The La Porte County Sheriff's Office and New Prairie United School Corporation has announced that a police K9 search has been concluded at New Prairie High School and no illegal substances were found. The New Prairie United School Corporation recently contacted the Sheriff's Office and elicited assistance with a search of the school utilizing certified K9 assets.

On Thursday, September 4, 2014 at 12:45 CST, the administrative staff of New Prairie High School ordered a lock-down of students and staff and canines and their handlers from the La Porte County Sheriff's Office conducted a free air search of all academic lockers; which totaled 998. The search was done with no interaction between K9's, students or teaching staff. The canine handlers and school administrative staff were assisted by investigators from the La Porte County Metro Operations Unit.

New Prairie United School Corporation Superintendent James Dermody stated: "The New Prairie United School Corporation is appreciative of the efforts of the La Porte County Sheriff's Office and the La Porte County Metro Operations Unit." Superintendent Dermody added: "We are pleased with the relationship that our Corporation enjoys with the Sheriff's Office and we have partnered with them to keep our students safe and to keep our buildings a safe learning environment."

Sheriff Michael Mollenhauer stated: "The La Porte County Sheriff's Office continues to be proactive in our efforts to maintain safe learning atmospheres in our County's schools. We are pleased that our K9 program is being utilized to help insure a safe school environment." Sheriff Mollenhauer also stated: "We commend the New Prairie United School Corporation for being proactive about keeping drugs from their buildings. We share common goals and are committed to work together to maintain safe schools."

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