



Joseph Taylor

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**Washington County  
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12-13-2023

### **CHIPLEY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT ARRESTED**

The Washington County School District and the CHS Administration have been collaborating the Sheriff’s Office in regards to a tip that came to us through FortifyFL on 12/12/2023. A lengthy investigation ensued by both school officials and sheriff’s office is still ongoing. Below is the press release from the Washington County Sheriff’s Office further detailing the case.

**Statement from the Washington County Sheriff’s Office:** *(Chipley, FL, December 13, 2023)-On December 12, 2023, Washington County Sheriff’s Office was notified of a battery that occurred at Chipley High School. While investigating the suspect involved in the altercation, School Resource Deputies discovered the suspect had a list of names of students and teachers on his phone. The SRD’s along with WCSO investigators began to question the student about why such a list of names was contained on his phone. The student admitted to investigators that he created the list of names of people he would like to harm.*

*The suspect is identified as James Simmons a 10<sup>th</sup> grade student at Chipley High School. Simmons was arrested the same day and has been charged with a second-degree felony. He has been placed in a detention facility with the Department of Juvenile Justice.*

**Pursuant of School Board Policy and Practice, parents/guardians of students and teachers on the list are being notified by CHS School Officials in regards to this case.** We want to thank the students, parents and community for using our Tip Reporting Tool ([FortifyFL.com](https://www.fortifyfl.com)) and for helping us keep our schools safer.

**“Quality Education Today For A Better Tomorrow”**