

# Lemon Bay student, 15, faces drug charge

By KEVIN DALE

[kevin.dale@heraldtribune.com](mailto:kevin.dale@heraldtribune.com)

ENGLEWOOD -- Deputies said a Lemon Bay High School sophomore spent the school day Monday snorting crushed OxyContin pills and selling some to classmates.

The 15-year-old was arrested for selling a controlled substance on school grounds and was sent to juvenile detention in Fort Myers.

Deputies said the boy had \$63 in cash, a metal strip for cutting and crushing the pills and a pill bottle that read "OC" and "40," a reference to the pills' 40-milligram dosage.

The boy was "sleeping in class and appeared to be ill," the arrest report said.

Lemon Bay High Principal Dan Jeffers on Tuesday said school administrators continued to investigate the students' drug use.

He said the boy's sale of the drugs was an "isolated case."

"We have our young people involved, from time to time, in drugs," said Jeffers, who added the school will continue to take a "hard line" against students who sell drugs on campus.

Deputies said the boy crushed the pills, which bypasses their time-release mechanism, before snorting them in a locker room and in a freshman bathroom with at least six fellow students.

One 15-year-old student paid the boy \$5 to snort the drug together. Another student, also 15, said he would trade a "quarter bag" of marijuana for one of the OxyContin pills.

According to the arrest report, the boy told a deputy that he stole 10 to 11 "Oxy 40s" from his adult sister, who had a prescription for OxyContin, a slow-release formula of the opiate painkiller oxycodone.

OxyContin, which can sell on the street for \$1 per milligram, is a pure form of oxycodone, a widely abused controlled substance that is also sold under the brand names Roxicodone and Percocet.

Oxycodone was listed as the cause of death in five drug-overdose deaths in Charlotte County last year.

The drug was also found in the body of Lemon Bay High senior Jason Norman, 17, a budding actor who died of a drug overdose Jan. 3.

Hundreds of Lemon Bay High students attended Norman's memorial service in the school's Performing Arts Center.

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