

Students charged after fight

10 Greece Olympia kids arrested

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A long-running rift between Greece Olympia High School students escalated into a brawl Monday that was captured on a student's cellphone and then circulated on social media.

The fight prompted the suspension of 12 high school students. Ten were criminally charged Thursday. The fight broke out around 2 p.m. Monday on Olympia Drive close to the school. An assistant principal was alerted and called 911, according to District Superintendent Barbara Deane-Williams. The fight led to some suspensions that day, she said. The next day, a video that showed the scope of the incident surfaced and was posted on social media. A subsequent police investigation led to the criminal charges, said Greece Police Deputy Chief Jason Helfer.

Some students allegedly involved in the fight were charged with third-degree assault, a misdemeanor, while witnesses were charged with "unlawful assembly," also a misdemeanor. That law prohibits five or more people from gathering for "tumultuous and violent conduct likely to cause public alarm."

Daniel Parker, a 17-year-old student at the school, said Thursday that he'd been a witness to the fight and is a friend of the student who was initially attacked by a number of teens. He said there has been a simmering tension between students, and a fight was scheduled for Monday.

Parker's mother, Sarah Heim, said Parker was supposed to be involved in the fight, but the friend of his ended up the target of the attack from classmates. "This is serious stuff," she said, saying she fears for her son's safety. Parker was charged with unlawful assembly, as was Melvin James, 16.

Charged with third-degree assault and unlawful assembly were Aron Bell III, 16, and Alexander Lawson, 16. Six other teenage boys — all 14- or 15-year-old students — were charged with third-degree assault and unlawful assembly. They were charged as alleged juvenile offenders.

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