

Friday, March 15, 2019

Dear Mountain View Parents/Guardians,

We care about our students' health and want to take this opportunity to share critical information related to the staggering rise over the past several years in electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes). In fact, more than 2 million middle and high school students were current users of e-cigarettes in 2017 and the **FDA now believes that youth use of e-cigarettes is reaching epidemic proportions.** This use by children and teens is especially concerning because the developing adolescent brain is particularly vulnerable to nicotine addiction.

E-cigarettes are battery-operated devices that contain a mixture which usually contains nicotine, flavorings, and other chemicals. The device heats this mixture, called e-juice or e-liquid, producing an aerosol that is inhaled. The act of using an electronic cigarette is calling "vaping" or "JUULing".

Recently, there has been a lot of discussion about them, including many myths and important safety concerns and consequences of vaping. Bold marketing, endless flavor choices, and a plethora of online "vapor trick" tutorial videos have increased its appeal with students.

This increasingly popular and dangerous trend may be impacting your child and/or their friends, as vaping happens quickly and discreetly with one device often being shared by many students. Devices are sometimes disguised to look like USB drives, lipsticks, or pens.

It is important to recognize that possession of an e-cigarette, vape pen, JUULs, or any materials associated with them is strictly prohibited at school and is illegal. Students caught vaping or in possession of vaping paraphernalia at school will be subject to disciplinary action as described within the MUSD Disciplinary Matrix.

The Marana school district encourages parents to speak with their child about the dangers and consequences of ecigarettes. Please visit the <u>Health Services section of our District Website</u> for important information about ecigarettes, how to recognize and prevent, and for helpful tips on how to have conversations with your child. A list of resources to help you support your child in making healthy decisions is also available.

Starting fourth quarter an Electronic Smoking Device Reduction program will be piloted at our school *only* for those occurrences which do not involve the use of illicit drugs. Facilitated by our Health and Wellness Prevention coach, this program will reduce the number of days students are suspended out of school for the use or possession of MOD/JUUL devices and replace them with a two-day curriculum to increase awareness of effects of electronic smoking device use and decrease future use.

Thank you for your attention to this and for your continued support of Mountain View High School and our District policies. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me or any member of our school Administrative team if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Todd Garelick Principal

Todd Garelick, Principal