

Date: Monday September 28, 2020

Subject: E-cigarettes, vaping and smoking

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The new reality which Covid has forced upon us has obliged us to tighten our policy regarding e-cigarettes, smoking and vaping. E-cigarettes, smoking and vaping are against the law for anyone under the age of 18. These activities are not allowed at school, on school property or at school events.

Vaping, juuling or smoking on school grounds is a breach of the school's code of conduct and creates conditions for an unsafe environment for our students. Anyone caught engaging in any of these activities on school property will face consequences which could include suspension.

While smoking in a designated area has been tolerated in the past, in spite of numerous reminders, students have not respected social distancing measures. Some even share cigarettes and other smoking devices. This is creating a health risk to the students who smoke as well as the students and staff they come into contact with, upon returning to the school. As a result, anyone caught engaging in any of these activities will face consequences which could include suspension.

Since e-cigarettes and vaping are still relatively new, here are a few signs to look for to detect the use of electronic cigarettes:

- E-cigarettes and vape pens may not smell bad like the smoke from burning tobacco, however, most have flavors in them that usually smell like fruit. If you catch a sudden aroma, this may be a red flag.
- "Pens" that aren't pens: These electronic devices need to be charged. The atomizers are a vital part of e- cigarettes as they turn the juice/fluids into vapor. The device looks like a pen, marker or other gadget. Look for buttons, lights or parts that pull apart and have cartridges that may contain the fluids to be burned.
- Excessive dry mouth/dry skin and/or increasing nose bleeds.

It is our hope that through our joint efforts, our students will respect the directives set out by santé publique. We strongly encourage you to have conversations with your child about the dangers of smoking, e-cigarettes and vaping, especially within the context of Covid 19. Our goal is to help our students in making positive, informed decisions for themselves and for our community and, ultimately, to stay safe.

As always, we appreciate your efforts in supporting school rules and policies to help maintain an orderly learning environment and keep our students safe. Please feel free to contact the school should you have any concerns.

Sincerely,

Sandra Maluorni
Interim Principal