

OAK CREEK HIGH SCHOOL

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January 19, 2018

Greetings Parents and Guardians,

As times change, we must adapt to these changes. As technology continues to evolve and makes many of the things we do in life more efficient and effective to accomplish, it also brings about challenges to which we must respond.

A product developed for adults as a smoking cessation device, has turned into an unfortunate popular device and habit that too many teens across this country are using at an astonishing rate. The 'fad-dish' use of so called 'Vapes' and/or 'E-cigarettes' has grown into a multibillion dollar industry and high schools across the country are feeling its effects.

The substances in these electronic smoking devices are not readily identifiable and can range from highly addictive nicotine to controlled, illegal and/or potentially dangerous substances. The growth of this fad among teenagers is due in part to the ease of accessibility and the less noticeable odor or smoke. In years past, it was simpler to detect students who were, for example, "smoking in the bathroom." The odor would be apparent. The days of smelling smoke have been replaced by difficult to detect miscellaneous scents and flavors manufacturers use to entice teens, but also mask detection of substances. In addition, the manufacturers of these devices are getting more and more clever about hiding the purpose of the device.

It is unfortunate that these devices are introducing a new generation of youth to the possibility of addiction/dependence on one of the most addictive substances in human use: nicotine. Furthermore there is the very risky potential for exposure to other illegal substances such as extracts or synthetic analogs of illegal substances. Equally worrisome is that these liquids contain many other carrier chemicals and flavorants whose impact on human health is either unknown or predictably damaging to lungs.

To help you in your role as parent or guardians of teens in this context of increasing use, we want to share these two resources with you from the Office of the U.S. Surgeon General:

- ❑ [Know the Risks: The Facts on e-cigarette use among youth and young adults](#)
- ❑ [Talk with Your Teen About E-cigarettes: A Tip Sheet for Parents](#)

Please takes some time to talk with your child - whether or not you believe they may be involved in vaping - so all youth have these common understandings and messages from their most important teacher: ***you***. **Any student who has a previous incident of utilizing/possession of Vapes/E-cigarette on school grounds, or school sanctioned events this academic year will automatically will be placed at Incident level 2.**

To support you and to be crystal clear with our Knights that the use or possession of “vapes/e-cigarettes” is clearly known by all to be unacceptable at school or while on school grounds, we will be instituting the following rules and practices, effective at the start of the second semester January 24, 2018.

Use or Possession of Vaping Devices, Substances or Paraphernalia:

Use or possession of any device designed to heat a liquid into an aerosol or vapor that a user inhales or related substances and/or paraphernalia is prohibited while on school grounds or at school events.

Incident 1: confiscation of material items + meeting with administrator/parent/guardian/student + law enforcement citation

Incident 2: confiscation of material items + 3 day in-school suspension + required Alcohol & Other Drug assessment + law enforcement citation, + administrative/parent/student intervention meeting

Incident 3: confiscation of material items + 2 day out/3 day in school day suspension + law enforcement citation + required Alcohol & Other Drug assessment + administrative/parent/student intervention meeting

Incident 4: confiscation of material items + 5 day suspension + law enforcement citation + required Alcohol & Other Drug assessment + pre-expulsion hearing

Students will be provided information related to this policy change during their Knight's Advisory class this week. It is my hope that working together we can discourage the use of these dangerous and disruptive devices by our students. I appreciate your support and cooperation in promoting the health and safety of all of our community's youth.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns or have other ideas on how to work together to solve this challenge. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely

Michael Read
Principal OCHS