

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Early last week one of our SWMHS students was sent by ambulance to the hospital due to what the SWMHS administration and nursing staff believed to be an adverse reaction to something that he inhaled from an electronic smoking or “vaping” device. Unfortunately, he is not the first student in our school district to have such a reaction to something ingested through an electronic smoking device, as during a football game at the high school last fall, a middle school student was incapacitated by what he inhaled, and as a result, was also rushed to the hospital. Sadly, vaping or “juling,” as it is also referred to, has become a very serious epidemic in Sayreville, Middlesex County, New Jersey, as well as nationally. Much of this is due to the fact that school officials and law enforcement are experiencing major challenges in catching and preventing students from engaging in this very dangerous activity because the devices that are now being used to inhale substances look identical to office stationary and utensils, such as pens, USB drives, etc. Furthermore, since there is no combustion involved in the ingestion of the substances, it is very difficult to detect fragrances when students are in the process of or have used them to inhale a substance. Last spring our Assistant Principals and officers from the Sayreville Police Department gave a Sayreville Parent University Workshop presentation on vaping. **To see the handouts from it, click below.**

[Vaping and Jouling, What You Need to Know handouts.pdf](#)

As a result, beginning immediately, as per Letter H of the below BOE Substance Abuse Regulation 5131.6, “electronic smoking devices,” which includes vaping and juling instruments, will be considered drug paraphernalia and therefore any student found in possession of them will be sent out for an immediate drug screening and physical examination. In addition, if a controlled or dangerous substance is proven to be in their system, based upon the results of the screening, they will be subject to the consequences outlined in Letter U – 1-2 in Regulation 5131.6, which includes, but is not limited to a 5 day suspension for the 1st offense and suspension from school pending a Board of Education hearing to determine whether a long-term (over 10 days) suspension is in order for the second offense. If there is no evidence of a controlled or dangerous substance in the student’s system, students will still receive 1 – Day Out of School Suspension for possessing an “electronic smoking device.” **Please review the SMS Student handbook as well as see below Policy.**

[SUBSTANCE ABUSE.pdf](#)

[Student Handbook 2018.2019 Final Edition 8.18.pdf](#)

Parents, we strongly recommend that you have a conversation with your child(ren) about the dangers of these devices. Our hope is that together as an educational community, we can educate and help stop the use of these dangerous smoking devices. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, nearly one out of every four middle and high school students use electronic vaping products. Studies also show that some e-cigarette products produce vapors that contain known carcinogens and toxic chemicals, as well as potentially toxic metal nano-particles from the device itself. Below are some signs to look for to detect the use of electronic cigarettes.

- A sudden, non-explainable, strong, and sweet smell of fruit, candy, or mints.
- Dry mouth, dry skin, and dry eyes.
- Increasing nose bleeds, dizziness, and nausea
- Possession of strange pen-like devices or other USB looking devices that need to be charged.
- The distinctive smells of cigarette and marijuana vapor are much more subtle, making it easier for teens to hide use.

Thank you for your attention in regard to this matter and have a wonderful day!

Mr. Richard K. Gluchowski

Prinicpal