

Dear Parents/Guardians,

School districts throughout Georgia have recently seen an increase in the use of electronic cigarettes and vaping devices by students. E-cigarettes come in various forms and look very similar to a USB flash drive, pen, lighter, and other everyday items. Not only are the e-cigarette and vaping devices difficult to identify, but the traditional smoke smells are also not present with vaping.

The use of e-cigarettes puts the safety of our students at risk. For example, students can have very serious reactions to e-cigarette usage that may require medical attention. Many of the substances used in e-cigarettes contain high concentrations of nicotine and are highly addictive. E-cigarettes may also be used to distribute other substances.

Here are some signs to look for to detect the use of e-cigarettes:

- E-cigarettes and vape pens are sometimes odorless; however, most have flavors that usually smell like fruit, candy or mint. If you catch a sudden aroma, this may be a red flag.
- “Pens” that aren’t ink 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; together with a pen style battery, they make the ensemble look like a fancy fountain pen which can be carried everywhere.
- Look for buttons, lights or parts that pull apart and have cartridges that may contain the fluids to be burned.

Please help us at home by talking with your child(ren) about the dangers of using e-cigarettes. Please also remind your student(s) that all tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, are not allowed on school grounds, as stated in the School District Student Code of Conduct. We will also closely monitor all areas on campus where smoking has been reported.

Several resources about the dangers of e-cigarettes are linked below. We believe with adequate education we can help our children understand the dangers of tobacco and its effect on the developing brain. Please know that your student’s safety is always our top priority.

<http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Curriculum-and-Instruction/Documents/CDC%20e-cigarette%20fact%20sheet.pdf>

https://connectdocs.blackboard.com/broadcasts/Docs/f5fdc32e5a5c921764a479c2eb2488a0/9fd1220d-3283-4c85-8b8d-48078b19413f.pdf?ticket=t_QFadVwza&xythos-download=true

<http://www.gadoe.org/External-Affairs-and-Policy/Pages/Substance-Abuse-Prevention-and-Education.aspx>

Thank you for your continued support. Please feel free to contact school personnel with any questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

{Insert School Administrator or PTA name and contact information}