October 26, 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Over the past two years there has been a dramatic increase in student use of vapor or e-cigarettes on campus and during school sponsored events. I am writing this letter to inform you about the potential health risks of vaping, as well as the disciplinary consequences associated with violating school rules regarding vaping.

Vaping is the act of inhaling a vapor produced by an electronic vaporizer or e-cigarette. The vapor may contain nicotine, THC (the active ingredient in marijuana) and/or other unknown substances that may be harmful to the health of the user. The vapor liquids come in many different flavors that often have no odor or smell fruity. Vaporizers/e-cigarettes come in all different shapes and sizes. Some common styles may look like a thick pen, a stylus, a flash drive, or a small flask with a round chimney coming off the top. The devices are small and can easily be hidden on a person or blend in with normal purse/backpack items. One product gaining popularity is a product known as a "Juul". Juuls are small pods that contain high levels of nicotine and resemble a flash drive.

In a recent article, Scott Gottlieb, the Food and Drug Administration Commissioner, is quoted as saying that "youth use of electronic cigarettes has reached epidemic proportion!" Here are a few disturbing facts:

- Juul users ages 15-24 were not aware the product “always contains nicotine.”
- One Juul pod contains the same amount of nicotine as an entire pack of cigarettes.
- Vaping can quickly lead to nicotine addiction.
- The devices may be used to consume marijuana.
- Many flavor cartridges do not provide a complete ingredients list, leaving students unsure of what they are inhaling.

Vaping is against the law for anyone under the age of 18 and is not allowed on any school campus or at any school event regardless of age. The discipline consequence associated with vaping use and or possession of any vaping paraphernalia (pods, juice, battery packs etc.) is a 15 day ISS assignment held at the Student Adjustment Center on the Carver Learning Center campus. This will be for a first offense with possible progressive discipline for subsequent offenses. In addition, the school will not return any vapes, Juuls, e-cigarettes or any associated paraphernalia to students or parents. We are also working with the San Angelo Police Department in cases where there is a suspicion of illegal substance use in or with the device.

There is little research about the long-term effects of vaping. The potential harm to students alarms me. Take some time to speak with your child about this. I appreciate your efforts in supporting the health and wellness of our kids, your support of school rules and policies that help maintain an orderly and positive learning environment, and helping us keep our students safe at CHS.

Sic ’Em Cats!

“CENTRAL CAN!”