**AN OPEN LETTER TO PARENTS ABOUT VAPING/JUULING**

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the issue, give you resources if you feel your child is involved in this kind of behavior, as well as alert you to possible repercussions if your child engages in vaping on school property. We take this issue very seriously due to the negative health effects vaping can have on our students and find that often our parents are not aware of the risks around vaping. The increase in vaping prompted us to do more research and we want to share our findings with you.

Vaping is the act of inhaling a vapor produced by an electronic vaporizer or e-cigarette. The vapor can contain nicotine and other substances, which is concerning. The liquids that are vaporized come in many different flavors and might even smell fruity. For example, many of the flavors of these liquid concentrates, or ‘vape juices’, are sweet and even have names such as, cinnamon roll, marshmallow, grape, strawberry, bubblegum, lemonade and cookies.

Vaporizers/e-cigarettes come in all different shapes. Some common styles we see look like a thick pen, a stylus for an iPad, a flash drive, or a small flask with a round chimney coming off the top. The devices are very small and can easily be hidden on a person or blend in with normal backpack items. Like cigarettes, stores cannot sell vaping items to people under the age of 18. However, students report that they purchase the devices online or buy from older siblings, friends, or unfortunately even parents.

When students vape in school bathrooms it can be due to an addiction to nicotine they have developed, a peer pressure issue, or they are simply curious and want to try it out. In any case, spending excessive time out of class is heavily correlated to lower grades and understanding of material. Additionally, vaping on school grounds negatively impacts students and staff who do not want to be exposed to or breathe in vapor.

Vaping is prohibited by Canton Area School District (Policy #222), Canton Jr/Sr High School Handbook and Canton Area Elementary School Handbook, which all students and parents/guardians sign off on to acknowledge their understanding of the rules of the Canton Area School District. In an effort to prevent students from engaging in this harmful and prohibited behavior, the district has obtained vape detectors through State grant funding. These vape detectors are in the process of being installed throughout all high school restrooms. This letter is to serve as our communication mechanism to inform parents of this intent. We hope you find this letter informative and understand our concerns about this potentially harmful issue. Our goal is to partner with parents to help support our students in making positive decisions for themselves and their future. We encourage you to have a conversation with your student(s) about this topic. As we learn more, we will certainly share that information.

Finally, I have included web links and images of electronic cigarette or vapes to help you understand what these devices look like. Thank you for your continued support of our school system.

Sincerely,

Dr.Eric Briggs

Dr. Eric Briggs

Superintendent of Schools

Canton Area School District

**Resources:**

[Center for Disease Control and Prevention](https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/e-cigarettes/Quick-Facts-on-the-Risks-of-E-cigarettes-for-Kids-Teens-and-Young-Adults.html)

[How To....Talk to Your Students about Vaping](https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/242465/CDC_Tip_Sheet_on_Vaping.pdf)

