



ELIZABETH FORWARD MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Dr. Trisha Martell
Principal

August 20, 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Recent studies show that there has been an increase in teen usage of electronic cigarettes/vaping devices and the health effects it has on students. There has been an increase in the number of students disciplined for vaping on school property. Vaping is the process of inhaling vapor through the mouth from a battery-operated device that heats up and vaporizes a liquid or solid chemical. Most of the e-liquids contain highly concentrated nicotine along with other chemicals that are harmful to teens. There are also devices that can be used to smoke marijuana. In an effort to keep our students safe, we are writing this letter to provide you some important information and to ask for your assistance. Please note the federal law on vaping age restriction. When the FDA deemed regulation, the minimum age of **18** to purchase vaping products became federal law.

Vaping is prohibited by school policy and carries penalties under our school code of conduct.

Students caught vaping or possessing vaping paraphernalia will serve a three (3) day out-of-school suspension, be issued a magisterial citation, and be subject to a 45 school-day extra-curricular privilege suspension/social suspension. This privilege suspension includes attendance and participation in all school-sponsored activities, dances, athletics, clubs, and all extra-curricular activities. Any paraphernalia confiscated on school property will not be returned to the student or parent. Repeat offenders will be subject to progressive discipline. Additionally, students caught vaping marijuana will be disciplined under our strict Drug/Alcohol Policy. We hope that these consequences will prevent students from violating the code of conduct.

We don't want our students to risk their health and well-being or miss school due to suspension for vaping and are asking for your partnership. Please take a moment to speak to your child about this growing trend. We realize for some this may be a difficult conversation to broach and that everyone has their own opinion about this issue. As always, however, we appreciate your efforts in supporting school rules and policies to help maintain an orderly learning environment and keeping our students safe.

For additional information please see related website:

<http://www.aappublications.org/news/2018/01/30/PPVaping020118>

Please contact my office or the school nurse with any questions related to vaping or nicotine addiction. Our main office phone number is (412) 896-2335.

Respectfully,

Dr. Trisha Martell
Principal
Elizabeth Forward Middle School