

November 18, 2024

Dear Parents/ Guardians:

I am writing to emphasize the importance of open and honest communication with your child about the dangers of substance abuse, including vaping and drug use. As a small school community, we are deeply committed to providing a safe and supportive learning environment for all students. The district has made an intentional effort to be proactive in decreasing drug use and possession of narcotics. We have purchased vape detectors for both schools and verbalized the dangers of drugs to students. We have also talked to parents and granted leniency during hearings. At this point, we have no choice but to strictly enforce our policy of Zero Tolerance, which may warrant expulsion for any student caught using or in possession of drugs, vape, etc....

Zero Tolerance Policy:

Please be aware that our school district maintains a strict zero-tolerance policy regarding the possession, use, or distribution of drugs, vaping devices, or drug paraphernalia on school grounds or at school-sponsored events. Any student found in violation of this policy will face serious disciplinary consequences, including potential suspension or expulsion.

The Dangers of Substance Abuse:

- **Vaping:** While often perceived as less harmful than traditional smoking, vaping can lead to serious health problems, including lung damage, addiction, and cognitive impairment.
- **Drug Use:** Drug use can have devastating consequences, including addiction, impaired judgment, and legal trouble.

How You Can Help:

1. **Open Communication:** Talk to your child about the risks of substance abuse and the importance of making healthy choices.
2. **Set Clear Expectations:** Establish clear rules and consequences regarding substance use.
3. **Monitor Your Child's Activities:** Stay informed about your child's whereabouts and social activities.
4. **Educate Yourself:** Learn about the signs of substance abuse and how to address concerns with your child.
5. **Discuss legal consequences of drug use and possession, such as arrests, jail time, fines, etc.**
6. **Be a good role model:** Avoid using tobacco products, alcohol or illicit drugs yourself.
7. **Randomly check your child's room, belongings such as bookbags, purses, and other items in your home.**
8. **Discuss the impact of drug use on the ability to focus, learn and succeed academically and in extracurricular activities.**

Educators are charged with educating students and ensuring their safety in the schools, but we know they do a lot more and we need your help. By working together, we can create a drug-free and safe learning environment for all students. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school office. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

LaShanda Hoskins

LaShanda Hoskins, Federal Programs, Assistant Superintendent and District Hearing Officer