

November 19, 2018

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students,

I am writing to express to you a growing concern we have here at Greensburg Salem with the spike in the number of students who have been vaping or have been in possession of a Juul or other eCigarette device. We treat vaping as we would any other tobacco violation here at Greensburg Salem. We have a concern for the health of our students who have a belief that vaping is not harmful to their health. As such, we believe we have to do more for students than just suspend them when they are found to be vaping or in possession of eCigarette devices for the first time.

To help students break away from smoking, vaping and possible nicotine addiction, the school district will implement mandatory participation in a Smokeless Saturday program. Smokeless Saturday is a teen education and cessation program for students found with tobacco (and vaping equipment) on school grounds or during school time. This program is designed and offered through an organization called Breathe Pennsylvania. It is a one day session taught by trained facilitators at 17 community sites throughout our region. In the program, students will learn about smoking triggers, how to deal with stress, the long and short term consequences of tobacco use and how to quit successfully. The assignment of a student to Smokeless Saturday Course and verification of student completion of the day long program by a representative from Smokeless Saturday will now be the first consequence for students who are found to be in possession or have used tobacco or vaping products in school or during school time.

Effective immediately, the revised consequences for High School Students as noted in the student handbook for tobacco for the remainder of the year will be the following:

Possession of tobacco products, vaping products and paraphernalia-

On the first offense, the student will receive three (3) days of after school detention and be referred to the Smokeless Saturday Tobacco Cessation Program and must complete said program. Refusal to attend the Smokeless Saturday Tobacco Cessation Program will result in an out of school suspension for three (3) school days and a fine, as well as confiscation of said tobacco products. For a second offense, the student shall be suspended for three (3) school days and the product(s) will be confiscated. Any offense or violation concerning possession of tobacco products on school property or in a school bus shall be referred to the police for appropriate action. (Students, parents and guardians should note that the District Magistrate has the right to impose a fine of up to \$300.00 for this violation)

Tobacco, vaping or any paraphernalia use on school property or in a school bus-

On the first offense, the student will receive three (3) days of after school detention and be referred to the Smokeless Saturday Tobacco Cessation Program and must complete said program. Refusal to attend the Smokeless Saturday Tobacco Cessation Program will result in an out of school suspension for three (3) school days and a fine, as well as confiscation of said tobacco products. For a second offense, the student shall be suspended for three (3) school days. Any offense or violation concerning smoking on school property or in a school bus shall be referred to the police for appropriate action. (Students, parents and guardians should note that the District Magistrate has the right to impose a fine of up to \$300.00 for this violation.

We will also be referring Middle School students to Smokeless Saturdays as well.

We hope by instituting these changes, we can help students cease vaping, avoid nicotine addiction, and prevent smoking all together. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation on this initiative as we strive to help students make good decisions.

Sincerely,

  
Dr. Gary Peiffer  
Superintendent