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Unified in a commitment to inspire and to empower resilient, lifelong learners.

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Parents and guardians,

According to nationwide trends, schools are experiencing a surge of incidents involving student use of vaporizers and e-cigarettes in various forms and inhaling a variety of substances. In response to this trend, we are providing you with information and resources so you may have a conversation with your child even if you do not believe they are involved in this kind of behavior. Since the use of e-cigarettes (vaping) is a newer trend, there are few long-term findings about its influence on the health of your child. However, we do know it is highly addictive because of the concentration of nicotine, other known chemicals contained found in vaping fluids, and peer pressure. We believe there is enough evidence supporting the claim that vaping can contribute to negative health effects, and often find that our parents and students may not be aware of the risks of vaping. In addition, there are misconceptions about vaping that we hope to clarify with the embedded resources.

WHSD Data according to the 2017 Pennsylvania Youth Survey (PAYS)

7% of WHES 6th graders reported having vaped in the last year
22% of WHHS 8th graders reported having vaped in the last year
25% of WHHS 10th graders reported having vaped in the last year
37% of WHHS 12th graders reported having vaped in the last year

Of the students that have acknowledged using a vaporizer/e-cigarette in the last year, 72% believe they were only inhaling flavoring without nicotine, while 15% admitted to not knowing what they were inhaling. Vape liquid can be used to hide/consume nicotine, marijuana, fentanyl, cocaine, or synthetic drugs. In addition, most vape liquids are produced in China, without regulation.

Surgeon General – Fact Sheet

https://e-cigarettes.surgeongeneral.gov/documents/2016_SGR_Fact_Sheet_508.pdf

Surgeon General – Parent Tip Sheet

https://e-cigarettes.surgeongeneral.gov/documents/SGR_ECig_ParentTipsheet_508.pdf

Stanford Medicine – Tobacco Prevention Toolkit

<https://med.stanford.edu/tobaccopreventiontoolkit.html>

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It is the policy of the Westmont Hilltop School District not to discriminate in employment or program services for reasons of race, color, sex, age, religion, national origin, or handicapping condition.

Please take some time to explore the resources, and then speak with your child about vaping. We realize that this topic may be a difficult conversation to raise at home and that everyone has his or her own opinion about it. At the very least, it is important that all parents and students understand that the possession or use of these devices at school is a violation of code of conduct and have consequences, such as in-school suspension, suspension, extra-curricular suspension and referral to the district magistrate. However, we believe that education and conversation is the most effective ways to curb this risky behavior. As always, we value your support of the school district and its policies as we strive to keep our students safe.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Mitchell
Acting Superintendent

Lynn A. Clement
Principal

Nicole D. Kuzmiak
Principal

Examples of popular vaporizers:

Juul - <https://www.juul.com/>



Various Vaporizers



SUORIN - <https://www.suorinusa.com>

