



MAMMOTH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Superintendent
Lois Klein

Board of Education
Jack Farrell
Deanna Campbell
Shana Stapp
John Stavlo
Yvon Guzman Rangel

Dear Parents,

As we begin 2018, we want to ask you to join us in a campaign to address the growing trend of youth vaping (a practice in which vapor is inhaled through the mouth from a usually battery-operated electronic device such as an electronic cigarette that heats up and vaporizes a liquid or solid). Since the beginning of this school year, we have seen and are hearing about a dramatic increase of vaping among our students. There seems to be an attitude that vaping is harmless with no health risks involved. We have heard that students of all ages, even elementary aged children are trying this new trend.

We are often told that students are only vaping liquid. Whether there is nicotine, marijuana or just flavored liquid, vaping brings toxic chemicals into a person's lungs. Many of the dangers of vaping are just becoming known. It is not only dangerous, it is illegal for minors under the age of 21 to vape. The use of any type of tobacco product in schools, including electronic devices is not allowed under Education Code. Students are in violation of Education Code if they have any type of tobacco or drug products or paraphernalia in their possession at school. Vaping devices today are small and made to look like pens, USB sticks and other common place school items. The liquids are often candy flavored and packaged to look appealing to children.

Our schools will begin an education program around the dangers of vaping this month. We will be addressing this issue in grades 5 – 12. We ask that you, as parents, take a proactive stand – talk with your children about vaping and be on the lookout for electronic devices in their varied forms. Included with this letter is information for you regarding the dangers of vaping. We also recommend the following website for information regarding how to speak to your child about electronic cigarettes (vaping):

https://e-cigarettes.surgeongeneral.gov/documents/SGR_ECig_ParentTipSheet_508.pdf

I want to thank Mono County Public Health, Mammoth Police Department, Mono County Office of Education and Mono County Behavior Health for their partnership and support in this campaign. Please join us in our effort to keep our young people healthy and to keep our schools safe and focused on education and productive endeavors.

Sincerely,

Lois Klein