



Pearl River School District

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Marco F. Pochintesta
Superintendent of Schools

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Dear Parents,

I am writing to let you know that the district, and other schools in the county, are seeing an increase in a dangerous new trend among students, e-cigarette use, also known as vaping. E-cigarettes, vape pens, or juuls, are electronic devices that emit a vapor that is inhaled by the user. The liquid solutions that are used in these devices may contain nicotine and other harmful chemicals. As noted in a Parent University presentation last year, and another last week, vaping devices are also being used to dispense crystallized marijuana (TCH). These devices may resemble a pen or a USB drive.

Our first and foremost concern is student health and safety. Students who are using these devices are inhaling nicotine and other harmful chemicals thinking it is safe. As you know, nicotine is highly addictive and some of these unregulated products that students are purchasing at vape shops, or online, contain higher levels of nicotine than cigarettes. Please note you must be 18 years of age to purchase vaping devices or vaping liquids. These devices can also be used to dispense THC in an odorless method.

As per the Pearl River Code of Conduct, the possession or use of a vaping device is prohibited in school, on school property or at school events. Students found possessing or using these devices are subject to discipline under the Code of Conduct.

In order to educate students, last year, we included a unit on vaping in our health classes in grades 5, 6, 7 and 10. Also, as part the new DARE-Keeping it Real program, all 7th graders received information about the health risks associated with vaping.

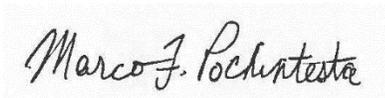
This year, in addition to the above mentioned classes and the Parent University, all students in grades 8-12 will be receiving information about the dangers of vaping through physical education classes by RCADD (Rockland Council on Alcoholism & Other Drug Dependence).

Presentations to staff are also taking place this month at the middle and high school.

Below please find some articles related to the health risks of vaping as well as a link to last year's presentation on vaping. Please take a moment and look through these materials and have a conversation with your child. If you are not sure how to begin this conversation, you can start by asking them what they know about vaping and if they understand the health risks involved. If you need support for your child, please contact our school social worker, Norma Canals, or your child's school counselor.

I thank you in advance for being a partner with us in your child's education. We need to work together as new trends emerge that risk the health and safety of our children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marco J. Pochintesta". The signature is written in a cursive style and is set against a light gray rectangular background.

<https://www.sciencenewsforstudents.org/article/concerns-explode-over-new-health-risks-vaping>

<https://www.cdc.gov/features/ecigarettes-young-people/index.html>

<https://www.healthline.com/health/nicotine-poisoning>

Vaping Presentation (video) <https://youtu.be/nZoeCJbTRHM>