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February 11, 2019

Dear Parents,

The United States Surgeon General has declared vaping through the use of electronic cigarettes as a new epidemic among teenagers. Electronic and vape pens contain a battery operated heating element that converts a liquid mixture into an inhalable fog like mist. The liquid cartridge is the flamed part of the pen that is used to create the vaping; this part contains nicotine or marijuana. Possession of a vape pen, e-cigarette or any associated paraphernalia is strictly prohibited on school grounds and is illegal. If your child is in possession of these items, he or she is subject to receiving a 3 – 5 day out of school suspension. Listed below are some subtle signals that indicate that your child may be vaping:

1. **Fruity aroma** – E-cigarettes do not smell bad like the smoke from combusting tobacco, however, most e-liquids have flavors in them that usually smell nice like candy, mint, vanilla, fruit punch. You should be concerned if you smell any of the flavors listed above but none of these scents are in the area.
2. **Unfamiliar handheld gadgets** – E. cigarettes come in various shapes, from cig-a-likes to box mods. However, the most common ones resemble a pen and are known as “vape pens.”
3. **Batteries and chargers** – Just like you have to charge your smartphone every single day, vapers need to charge their vaporizers on a regular basis. While some e-cigs can be charged with just a USB cable, most of the powerful e-cigs like box mods support 18650 batteries. If you identify unfamiliar batteries on a charger, they may be for use on a vaping device.
4. **Metallic wires and cotton wicks** – If you find organic cotton, empty plastic vials or thin metallic coils in your child’s room, this is yet another red flag.
5. **Discarded atomizers** - The atomizers are a vital part of e-cigs as they turn the e-juice into a vapor. However, they are disposable and after a while usually burn out. If you discover a discarded atomizer in your trash can, it is a clear indication that he/she may have been vaping.

We are dedicated to maintaining a safe environment for your child. Thank you for your vigilance and talking with your child regarding the negative effects of using a vape pen or e-cigarettes.

If you have any further concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me or any other member of the Uniondale High School administrative team.

In Partnership,

  
Dr. Edward Thomas

Principal

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