

Dear BMS Parents

We thought it would be helpful to send along some important information about a fast growing trend with the use of “vape” pens or e-cigarettes. The new shops selling these devices, and the various cartridges ranging from flavored vapors to nicotine cartridges, are popping up all over the surrounding communities. Many of these stores are soliciting the interest of young people with advertisements of candy-flavored vape-pens. This is particularly concerning when experts suggest that the number of middle school and high school kids using e-cigarettes since its introduction in the marketplace has nearly tripled yearly.

There are many misconceptions about this new fad and limited research on the potential long-term effects. The initial research suggests that many of the cartridges whether containing nicotine or not (the flavored ones) often have chemicals that are not yet FDA regulated or controlled. Many of these chemicals are linked to damage to internal organs and to causing cancer. Two substances of concern found in these cartridges are formaldehyde and propylene glycol which when broken down is used in the manufacturing of plastics and certainly is not something that should be inhaled. According to the New England Journal of Medicine, people who are still using e-cigarettes to get their nicotine “fix” are not lowering their risk of the side effects of nicotine on heart disease. “Nicotine narrows the arteries in the heart and throughout the body and over time can lead to heart attacks, strokes and heart failure”.

Lastly, these pens are also being used as a more discreet manner for people (adults and youth) to vape or smoke other illicit drugs such as marijuana and prescription drugs. As you can imagine this increases the dangers of overdose or substance misuse.

We strongly encourage you to have a conversation with your children about the potential harmful effects of the use of vape-pens and how stores and companies are attempting to be appealing to youth. The potential consequence of attracting young people is serious when research supports that the younger someone uses a substance, the more likely they are to become addicted.

On our school website, you will find links to some valuable articles and more information about the effects of vaping. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any other questions or concerns, 267-9220.

Sincerely,

Aaron Pope
Principal

Timothy Saunders
Associate Principal

Jennifer Gagnon
Student Assistance Coordinator