



School District of Spring Valley

Home of the Cardinals

November 22, 2019

Dear Spring Valley Parents and Guardians,

I write to you today about an increased concern we are facing at Spring Valley School and across the nation regarding 'vaping'. The United States Food & Drug Administration now categorizes vaping or the use of e-cigarettes as an epidemic. Unfortunately, over the past few months, we have seen an increase of this on school grounds.

I understand that many of our parents are unaware that their child may be vaping or believe that it is not harmful, when in reality, almost all vape cartridges contain nicotine, which is illegal to have on school premises regardless of age. Additionally, vape devices come in many different shapes and sizes, many looking like a flash drive or a ball point pen. There are even vapes that look like an Apple Watch, strings of a sweatshirt hoodie, attached to a backpack which can be hard to identify for parents and school officials.

We are asking that you help us by having a conversation with your child(ren) regarding this epidemic, and also *communicate that possession and/or the use of e-cigarettes are prohibited on school property, and is subject to disciplinary action.* More importantly, it is extremely unhealthy! We will continue to educate our staff and students on the health risks associated with vaping.

In order to assist you in your conversation, please visit <https://e-cigarettes.surgeongeneral.gov/> for a great resource from the US Surgeon General's office, complete with information, facts, and multiple resources for you to use. Thank you in advance for addressing this with your child. If you and/or your child needs additional support, please contact me at the school and I am happy to help you find additional resources.

Additional Resources

<https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/infographics/youth/pdfs/e-cigarettes-usb-flash-508.pdf>

https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/e-cigarettes/index.htm

Sincerely,

Chris Segerstrom
MS/HS Principal

DISTRICT OFFICE

S1450 Cty. Rd. CC
P.O. Box 249
Spring Valley, WI 54767
(715) 778-5551
(715) 778-4761 (FAX)

Dr. Donald J. Haack
District Administrator

Eric Johnson
Community Education
Coordinator

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

200 Sabin Avenue
P.O. Box 427
Spring Valley, WI 54767
(715) 778-5602
(715) 778-5615 (FAX)

Daniel B. McGuire
4K-5 Principal

MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL

S1450 Cty. Rd. CC
P.O. Box 249
Spring Valley, WI 54767
(715) 778-5554
(715) 778-5556 (FAX)

Christopher Segerstrom
6-12 Principal

SCHOOL BOARD

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