



November 14, 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians:

As a community, we work together to provide a safe environment for the education for our children. When a serious issue arises, together we must bring the issue to light and work to protect the health and safety of our students. I am writing to you today about a serious issue in our schools and community—the rising number of adolescents using e-cigarettes or “vaping.”

As a school district, we set consequences for behaviors that negatively affect our educational environment. However, this is not enough to truly combat this community issue. We see stories virtually every day in the media about the health risks, illnesses, and injuries linked to vape use. It is vitally important that our students understand the serious risks of vaping to their health, as well as the consequences for vaping or possessing vaping materials in school.

To assist each other in this effort, we invite all parents/guardians to a community information night on **Tuesday, December 3, at 6pm in the High School Multi-Media Center.**

Additionally, there are resources regarding this issue on our district website at the following link: <https://www.horseheadsdistrict.com/VapeResources.cfm?school=District>. You can also reach the site by going to our website at www.horseheadsdistrict.com, clicking on Departments and then Health Services. In the More Information section, click on Vaping and E-Cigarettes: Resources.

As a reminder, possession of a vape pen, e-cigarette, or any materials associated with them, as well as any tobacco products or materials, is strictly prohibited in our schools, on buses, and on district property. This includes all vehicles in school drop-off and pick-up lines. Please also note that New York State has raised the minimum age for purchasing tobacco and e-cigarette products from 18 to 21. This law went into effect Wednesday.

We thank you for your continued concern and care for all of our students. If you have questions regarding this serious issue, please contact child’s principal.

Sincerely,

Dr. Thomas J. Douglas
Superintendent of Schools