

NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 203



To commit minds to inquiry, hearts to compassion, and lives to the service of humanity.®

August 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian,

A growing national concern for adolescent health is the use of e-cigarettes. You may have seen one of the many national news stories regarding the dramatic increase in use of these devices, often called by the brand name JUUL, by teenagers. E-cigarettes are small electronic devices that use a battery to heat a liquid into vapor that is then inhaled. That vapor is often flavored and most often contains nicotine or THC, the active ingredient in marijuana. New Trier is deeply concerned about the rise in use of these devices and the negative health consequences that they have on our students and is committed to maintaining a school environment that is free of nicotine and other substances. We have incorporated information about the dangers of e-cigarettes into our health curriculum and school wellness campaigns. We also know that consistent consequences for use of these devices can act as a healthy deterrent for students. **This year, in addition to a school consequence, any student found in possession of an e-cigarette device will be referred to our on-site police officer (school resource officer), who will consider issuing a local ordinance violation, which may result in a fine and/or a hearing at Village Hall or Cook County Circuit Court.**

The New Trier Guidebook states, "Use and/or possession of tobacco and/or nicotine by students is strictly prohibited in school buildings, on school buses, on any school property, or when engaged in any off-campus school related activity." This includes "devices that simulate tobacco or nicotine use (e.g. an electronic cigarette, vaporizer, or any other electronic nicotine delivery system or any device capable of delivering nicotine)." It is also a violation of Illinois state law and village ordinances in Winnetka and Northfield for students under the age of 18 to be in possession of these devices. Students are often unaware of or underestimate the health risks associated with these devices. E-cigarettes frequently contain nicotine at higher doses than what is found in traditional cigarettes. For example, a recent study found that one pod of JUUL has the same amount of nicotine as one pack of [cigarettes](#). Nicotine is highly addictive and negatively affects brain development in adolescents. E-cigarettes can also be used to deliver THC, the psychoactive chemical contained in marijuana, which presents the same dangers of addiction and negative impacts on brain development as traditional marijuana use. In addition, the liquids used in e-cigarettes may contain known carcinogens and toxic chemicals mixed with potentially toxic metal nanoparticles, such as nickel, chromium, and cadmium, from the heating element. For more information about the health impacts of e-cigarette use, please visit the Surgeon General's page at <https://e-cigarettes.surgeongeneral.gov/getthefacts.html> or the National Institutes of Health's National Institute on Drug Abuse at <https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/electronic-cigarettes-e-cigarettes>

We thank you for your partnership as we work together to prevent teens from using these harmful and potentially addicting devices.

Sincerely,

Denise A. Dubravec
Winnetka Campus Principal

Paul M. Waechtler
Northfield Campus Principal