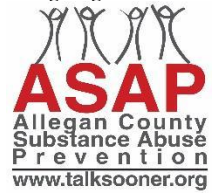




# Hopkins Public Schools

*"Committed to Quality Education for our Children's Future"*

400 CLARK STREET - HOPKINS, MI 49328 - (269) 793-7261 - FAX (888) 557-7919 - [www.hpsvikings.org](http://www.hpsvikings.org)



March 9, 2022

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

Hopkins Public Schools, similar to many other school districts, has seen a continued spike in incidents involving student vaping. Complicating this issue is that there is varying information and misunderstandings involving vaping and/or electronic cigarettes. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the issue, give you resources if you feel your child is involved in this kind of behavior, as well as alert you to possible repercussions if your child engages in vaping on school property. We take this issue very seriously due to the negative health effects vaping can have on our students. **The increase in vaping prompted us to install sensors at the middle school and high school. The sensors will alert school staff immediately when there is a detectable anomaly in the air, allowing us to respond and get to the core of the vaping problem. The ultimate goal is to decrease vaping at Hopkins schools and focus on the education of our students.**

When student's vape in school it can be due to an addiction to nicotine they have developed, a peer pressure issue, or they are simply curious and want to try it out. In any case, spending excessive time out of class is heavily correlated to lower grades and understanding of material. Additionally, vaping on school grounds negatively impacts students and staff who do not want to be exposed to or breathe in vapor.

The Surgeon General reports that nicotine is addictive and can harm brain development, which continues until about age 25. We know that using nicotine may make it harder for school related tasks such as learning and concentration. In conversations with students, it appears that many are not aware of the harmful effects of vaping. Students either say they use nicotine-free liquid or that it is safer than tobacco cigarettes. The reality is that vape products are not regulated by the FDA so the actual nicotine concentration can vary significantly.

Vaping is prohibited by the Hopkins student handbooks, which all students and parents/guardians sign off on to acknowledge their understanding of the rules and behavioral expectations at our middle school and high school. While we try to proactively educate to prevent any incidents, there will be consequences if a student vapes on school property. The consequences for vaping can include detention(s), suspensions(s), phone calls home, confiscation of the vaping device, and possible police involvement. Furthermore, if a student is an athlete in possession of a vaporizer or is seen in the act of vaping, this is a violation of the chemical health rules of the MHSAA and the Hopkins Athletic Handbook and can result in loss of eligibility for a portion of the season.

Hopkins High School  
333 Clark Street  
Hopkins, MI 49328  
(269) 793-7616

Hopkins Middle School  
215 Clark Street  
Hopkins, MI 49328  
(269) 793-7407

Hopkins Elementary  
400 Clark Street  
Hopkins, MI 49328  
(269) 793-7286

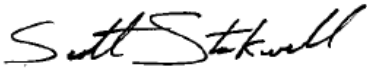
Sycamore Elementary  
2163 142<sup>nd</sup> Avenue  
Dorr, MI 49323  
(616) 681-9189

Some common styles we see look like a thick pen, a stylus for an iPad, a flash drive, or a small flask with a round chimney coming off the top. The devices are very small and can easily be hidden on a person or blend in with normal backpack items. Like cigarettes, stores cannot sell vaping items to people under the age of 21. However, students report that they purchase the devices online or buy from older siblings, friends, or unfortunately even parents.

Our goal is also to partner with parents to help support our students in making positive decisions for themselves and the school community. A local resource with information on how to have the “drug talk” with your child is [www.talksooner.org](http://www.talksooner.org). Please consider having a conversation with your child today about this important issue. Together we can all work towards a healthy future for our youth.

Thank you for your continued support of our school system.

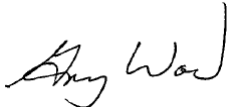
Sincerely,



Hopkins Middle School Principal



Hopkins High School Principal



Hopkins Superintendent



Heidi Denton  
Allegan County Substance Abuse Prevention

Additional Resources:

[Parent Talks are Important](#)

[Hey Parents](#)

[Truth Spotlight](#)