

HUNTINGDON AREA HIGH SCHOOL

2400 Cassady Avenue, Suite 1 Huntingdon, PA 16652

Phone: (814)643-1080 Fax: (814)643-3800 Website: <http://huntsd.org>

Mr. Travis R. Lee,
Principal

Mrs. Kristen C. Streightiff,
Assistant Principal

“ALL LEARNERS, ALL FUTURES”

To: HAHS Students and Families
From: Mr. Travis R. Lee, High School Principal
Re: HAHS School Update
Date: March 7, 2022

Greetings Students, Parents, and Guardians,

I am writing to the HAHS community stakeholders regarding a growing, and very important, concern for the use of vaping products within our geographic area. Vaping and tobacco products have grown in popularity over the past several years for adolescents. However, schools in our area have seen increased use of vaping products containing substances other than tobacco, including THC (marijuana) and fentanyl. These products bring serious concerns to everyone. ***Fentanyl is very dangerous*** - it can quickly induce overdose reactions from use and can even be absorbed through the skin, which causes dangers for anyone near the substance. There have been students from schools within the Central Pennsylvania region that have needed emergency medical care.

HAHS has been fortunate that we've not experienced a crisis situation with these substances yet - we want to keep it that way, and we need everyone's help in doing so.

In partnership with Mainstream Counseling, HAHS has been presenting the “Too Good” program regarding drug and alcohol prevention and decision-making. During the next session, Mr. Lee and Officer McBride, our School Resource Officer (SRO), will review the seriousness of this vaping issue for everyone's awareness, and will be reviewing the information listed below.

Steps To be Taken by HAHS

- School presentation regarding this topic
- Stress the resources available for students that need preventative interventions and/or support for addiction
- Outline the process regarding school procedures taken when there is suspicion of vaping or inappropriate/illegal behavior (including student searches and review of cell phone information)
- Outline the consequences for vaping and illegal/controlled substances
- Restricted Restroom Use During Targeted Timeframes
 - Note that restrooms are still available to students throughout the day. However, to enhance monitoring, the number of students permitted to use the restroom during instructional time and the number of restrooms available will be restricted during times of the day where we have identified and increase in vaping/suspicious behavior

Resources Available to Students and Families

The school's main concern is to keep our students and school community safe. See the information below for how to report dangerous/suspicious behavior For learners that may be struggling with addiction

- **Safe2Say Something Program:** Students may use the S2SS app to make anonymous tips when there are concerns for someone's safety or well-being, or to anonymously report suspicious behavior
- **Student Assistance Program (SAP):** This confidential program is available to students to address both mental health and drug and alcohol preventative/cessation needs by connecting students and families with community resources. Students can see a school counselor to make a self-referral or a referral for a friend. Families may contact the school and inquire about SAP services
- **School Counselors and School Social Workers:** These individuals can be confidential sources for students to seek out guidance regarding any school concern. Our counselors and social workers can direct students to the proper resources as necessary

What Parents Can Do

- Speak with your student regarding inappropriate use of substances, both in school and at home
- Reinforce the dangers of fentanyl - and to never to touch a vaping device since they may not know what substances that it contains
- Be aware of the resources that the school can provide to students (see above)

The safety of our students and staff is our highest priority. I thank you in advance for your help in spreading awareness about this serious issue and for helping to keep our school community safe.

Sincerely,

Travis R. Lee,
HAHS Principal