



August 23, 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Re: Vaping/E-Cigarettes

St. Paul School Division junior and senior high schools continue to report an increase in student use of electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) and/or vaporizers. The act of inhaling and exhaling the aerosol (vapor) is commonly referred to as vaping. This letter is to inform both parents and students of the potential health risks of these nicotine products and the increased use of these products in our schools, including bathrooms, change rooms, common areas, and even on the bus.

Vaping and the use of all tobacco products are prohibited on all St. Paul School Division property. While we try to proactively educate students, the fact is more students are vaping in our schools. Please be informed, effective immediately, we will be looking at increased supervision and any student caught vaping on school property or on the bus will be given an automatic three day out of school suspension. This includes vapes containing nicotine or any other type of non-nicotine vape juice. Vaping THC (marijuana product) will result in a five day out of school suspension. Sharing and/or selling vaping products is also not allowed and school policies have been updated to reflect these changes.

According to Alberta Health Services, many of the products contain nicotine which is highly addictive and exposes the user to harmful chemicals. Nicotine can affect brain development in children and teens and nicotine poisoning has become more of a concern with these products. The batteries are quite unstable and are the cause of fires, explosions and severe injuries. For more information, please go to <https://myhealth.alberta.ca> .

Sincerely,

Peter Barron
Superintendent of Schools