

# NORTH COUNTRY ROAD MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Dear Parents and Students:

The purpose of this letter is to explain our procedure in the middle school and concerns associated to the use of electronic cigarettes, vapor pens or any similar devices. As a result of recent trends in our community we are concerned with the volume and the severity in the use of electronic cigarettes and like devices among our students. At this time we consider this to be a significant health and safety concern.

These devices are easy to obtain and inconspicuous to use. They can look like a regular pen or a small USB flash drive and may not necessarily emit an odor when used. In addition to these devices being used to inhale nicotine, they are also being used to smoke marijuana wax, which is a much more concentrated and potent form of THC. The typical THC level of marijuana ranges from 5 to 18% whereas marijuana wax can be 85-95%, creating a much more dangerous incident for those involved.

The Surgeon General explains that the liquid, which is used to produce the vapor usually contains nicotine, flavoring, and other harmful additives inhaled deep into the lungs that are linked to serious lung disease. There are additional additives such as benzene, which is found in car exhaust and heavy metals, such as nickel, tin, and lead. Researchers have already viewed the incurable damages these devices are causing. An additional risk associated to these devices involves defective batteries that have been reported to cause explosions and/or fires.

The Miller Place School District prohibits the possession and or use of such devices on school grounds, school buses, and at any school sponsored activity. Any student found to be in possession or using such a device will be subject to significant disciplinary action which includes a minimum three day Out of School Suspension for the first offense.

We believe that a strong home and school partnership, along with consistent and clear communications, will help our students achieve in a safe and positive school environment. Please speak with your child about the dangers and discipline associated with the use of these devices should a student be in possession of such a device in school or at school functions. If you have any questions or need more information, please do not hesitate to contact the middle school administration.

Thank you for your continued support in providing a safe and educational environment within our community.

Sincerely,

*Matthew C. Clark*  
Matthew C. Clark  
Principal