



Donovan Middle School Principal Palladino's Update



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JUST A REMINDER:

Award Ceremony invitations and Moving up Tickets will be mailed out the week of May 20.

- **Grade 8 Awards Ceremony**
Wednesday, June 12, 2024
4:00pm
Donovan Middle School
1701 Noyes St., Utica
(By invitation only.)



- **Grade 8 Moving Up Ceremony**
Thursday, June 27, 2024
10:00 am start time
Students should report at 9:30 am.
Utica University Nexus Center
400 Oriskany St. W., Utica
(A formal letter will be sent home in May. Each family will receive 2 tickets and may request more. Students moving up do not need a ticket since they are participating in the ceremony.)



LOOKING AHEAD

- May 17 NO SCHOOL (unused Snow Day)
- May 21 NO SCHOOL (Superintendent's Conference Day)
- May 24 NO SCHOOL (Unused Snow Day)
- May 27 NO SCHOOL (Memorial Day)
- May 28 NO SCHOOL (Unused Snow Day)

Social Emotional Learning



Social and emotional learning (SEL) is the process through which children and adults understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions. See attached resource: **VAPING**

RAVING ABOUT A RAIDER and STAR AWARD WINNERS (APRIL)

Attached is a list of award winners.

RAVING ABOUT A RAIDER (RAR) Raffle Tickets are given to students by any staff in the building for attendance, behavior and academics. Some examples of how to earn a RAR Raffle Ticket are turning in lost money, improved attendance, improved tardiness, getting a perfect score on an assessment, helping others and any other reason a staff member wants to reward or thank a student. Staff may also recognize other staff with RARs; typically, 10 student winners and 2 staff winners are chosen each month via a lottery drawing.

STAR RAIDER Awards are given out by the Attendance Teachers, Mrs. Kristoff and Mrs. Lupi. Teachers nominate students monthly for Citizenship, Most Improved, Best Participation and Perfect Attendance. From the nominees, winners are chosen, via lottery system, to receive a special certificate and reward for the month.





TALK TO KIDS

ABOUT THE RISKS OF VAPING



Use this guide at home

Youth vaping remains a public health concern. In 2022, the annual National Youth Tobacco Survey found that more than 2.5 million youth use e-cigarettes. Many teens vape on a regular basis, and most choose flavored e-cigarettes. Many kids think vaping is harmless, but it can have serious health consequences. Given the right tools and information, parents, educators, and other influential adults can make a profound difference in the lives of their children and students by sharing the facts and tips to help them stay safe.

Facts About Teen Vaping

Use this guide to start an honest conversation at home about e-cigarettes and addiction.

Most e-cigarettes

CONTAIN NICOTINE,

the same highly addictive chemical in regular cigarettes.

Many e-cigarettes are shaped like

USB STICKS, PENS, AND WATCHES,

which makes them easy to hide at school.

The data show that kids who vape are

MORE LIKELY TO START SMOKING

cigarettes.

Of current middle and high school e-cigarette users,

APPROXIMATELY 85%

report using a flavored product.

Because their brains are still developing, teens are more

SUSCEPTIBLE TO NICOTINE

addiction than adults.

Vaping is not safe. In fact, some vapes contain

AS MUCH NICOTINE AS A WHOLE PACK

of cigarettes.

Some e-cigarette aerosols contain chemicals,

SUCH AS FORMALDEHYDE,

that can cause cancer.

HEALTHY HABITS AT HOME

The environment in your home plays a big role in your child's decisions. Keep it healthy to help kids avoid harmful habits.

- **If you smoke or vape, try quitting.**

Teens report that one of the top reasons they try e-cigarettes is that a friend or family member uses them. Share the reasons why you want to quit, and ask your family for their support as you start your journey.

- **Establish a tobacco-free home.**

Don't allow smoking or vaping in your home. Make sure to ban smoking and vaping in your car too.

- **Steer clear of smoking and vaping in public places.**

Avoid restaurants, parks, and other locations that allow people to smoke or vape.

- **Set family health goals each week.**

Take a walk together around the neighborhood, try a new vegetable each week at dinner, do one-minute yoga stretches together, or challenge everyone to drink more water. Working as a team keeps it fun!



PRACTICE WAYS TO SAY NO

Ask your child if they've ever felt pressure to try vaping. Then strategize what they can say or do if another kid offers them an e-cigarette, and have them practice by responding to different situations.

- Say a simple "No, thanks," or "Nah, that's not my thing."
- Change the topic ("Hey, are you going to band practice today?").
- Walk away and do something else.
- Talk with a friend, parent, or trusted adult.

RESOURCES

Teens may not know the signs of nicotine addiction. If you think your child is vaping, talk to them about why it is harmful. Ask for support from others. Remember: It's never too late to get help.

Signs of Addiction

- Cravings to use e-cigarettes or other tobacco products
- Feeling anxious or irritable
- Continuing to vape despite negative consequences
- Going out of one's way to get e-cigarettes

Getting Help

- Talk to your family doctor about treatment options
- Visit [smokefree.gov](https://www.smokefree.gov)
- CDC Quitline:
1.800.QUIT.NOW
- For Young People:
Text DITCHJUUL to 88709
- For Families Helping Young People:
Text "QUIT" to 202.899.7550

APRIL

S.T.A.R. RAIDERS

AWARD WINNERS

Grade 7	Grade 8
Outstanding Citizenship	
<p>Anaya Guzman Nominated by: Ms. Edick Saw Nintyone Maung Nominated by: Ms. Koscinski</p>	<p>Kamila Santos Nominated by: Ms. Gordon AlWaseem Nasser Nominated by: Mr. Singleton</p>
Most Improved	
<p>Javell Kelley Nominated by: Mr. Colone Giavonna Fox Nominated by: Ms. Hyde</p>	<p>Benedict Sang Nominated by: Ms. Kilian Brendan Cook Nominated by: Ms. Ricci</p>
Best Participation	
<p>Maya James Nominated by: Ms. Egresits Aubrey Bermudez Nominated by: Ms. Piazza Alasia Burns Nominated by: Ms. Ricci</p>	<p>Lando Aung Nominated by: Ms. Saville Mya Demarco-Mackey Nominated by: Ms. Roundtree Eh Hser Khu Nominated by: Ms. Buono</p>
Perfect Attendance	
<p>Landen He Victoria Moo Orlando Mu</p>	<p>Cherish Bu Nay Hla Bwe Mu</p>

RAVING ABOUT A RAIDER

April Award Winners

<u>Student</u>	<u>Nominated by</u>
Lando Aung	Miss Palladino
Vincent Cognito	Miss Palladino
Ticiere Holman	Miss Palladino
Lay Htoo	Miss Palladino
Jennifer Lopez-Flores	Miss Palladino
Khamya Mercer	Miss Palladino
Yasin Mohamed	Miss Palladino
Eh Khee Paw	Miss Palladino
Ei Ei Phy	Miss Palladino
Htee Pur	Miss Palladino

<u>Employee</u>	<u>Nominated by</u>
Christian Cognito	Mr. Singleton
Gina Costantine	Mrs. Koksozki
Courtney Herkle	Miss Weaver
Jasmine Parker	Miss Palladino

JUNE 2024

**DONOVAN
MIDDLE
SCHOOL**



MISS ANN MARIE PALLADINO, Principal
Main Office: 315) 368-6541 / Nurse: 315) 368-6552

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
02	03 DAY 2 Hillside Assembly	04 Algebra REGENTS DAY 1	05 DAY 2 Final -Family Consumer Science	06 DAY 1	07 DAY 2	08
09	10 DAY 1 Final-ELA, ENL, Science, World Lang.	11 Shavuot Begins DAY 2 Final-Math, Soc. Studies	12 Day 1 PARENT EDUCATION SERIES ALBANY SCHOOL 4PM / GYM	13 Shavuot Ends DAY 2 Final-Music	14 Living Environment REGENTS DAY 1	15
16	17 DAY 2 Final— Checkpoint Gr. 8 World Lang. Assessment	18 DAY 1	19 NO SCHOOL 	20 DAY 2 First Day of Summer	21 DAY 1	22
23	24 DAY 2	25 DAY 1	26 DAY 2 LAST DAY FOR STUDENTS	27	28	29
30						

What's Going On...
www.uticaschools.org
Utica City School District

VISION

Students will be prepared to be successful in high school.

MISSION

DMS Staff will use data driven decision making to provide academically challenging experiences for all students in a respectful, responsible, kind, and a safe environment in collaboration with parents/guardians and community agencies.