



# Donovan Middle School Principal Palladino's Update

### THIS ISSUE:

- CELL PHONES
- DRESS CODE
- SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING
- NOVEMBER CALENDAR
- STAR RAIDER WINNERS



### \*UCSD Code of Conduct CELL PHONE POLICY

Cell Phones are not allowed to be used in school. If students are found using a cell phone the following disciplinary consequences will be imposed progressively:

*1st offense*-cell phone confiscated by security or given to security by staff member, parent called to pick up the phone which will be secured in the main office.

*2nd offense*-cell phone confiscated by security, parent called to pick up the phone which will be secured in the main office. Assistant Principal assigns 3 days of lunch detention.

*3rd offense*- cell phone confiscated by security, parent called to pick up the phone which will be secured in the main office. Assistant Principal assigns half day ISS.

*4th offense*- cell phone confiscated by security, parent called to pick up the phone which will be secured in the main office. Assistant Principal assigns a full day of ISS and sets up a meeting with parent to get phone back.

### LOOKING AHEAD

- 10/24 School Pictures
- 10/25 School Pictures
- 11/7 No School
- 11/10 No School
- 11/21 UCSD PJ Day
- 11/21 Dismiss 15 minutes early
- 11/22-24 No School



### \*UCSD Code of Conduct DRESS CODE POLICY

- Clothes and footwear should be safe and appropriate.
- Clothes SHOULD NOT make reference to drugs, alcohol, gangs, or tobacco.
- NOT APPROPRIATE=tube tops, net-tops, halter tops, spaghetti straps, plunging necklines, and see-through clothes.
- NOT APPROPRIATE=short skirts/shorts, hats, bandanas, any items that are rude, use curse words, make fun of others, or have sexual content.
- Undergarments should be completely covered with outer clothing.

\*Complete copy of the UCSD Code of Conduct available online:

[https://www.uticaschools.org/codeofconduct23\\_24](https://www.uticaschools.org/codeofconduct23_24)

## 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!

## MONTHLY AWARDS

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; 10 student winners and 2 staff winners are drawn in each.

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



## Get The Facts About Vaping

Research shows that vaping is dangerous, highly addictive and harmful to a child's health and brain development. And like other addictions, it's easier for kids to never start than try to stop. Get the facts, so you can have a conversation with your child.

### What Is Vaping?

#### Isn't vaping just "flavored water vapor"?

No. Vaping involves inhaling "e-juice" in the form of aerosol produced by an electronic cigarette or vape device. The aerosols typically contain flavorings such as diacetyl, a chemical linked to serious lung disease,<sup>1</sup> nicotine and other harmful chemicals.<sup>2</sup> Vape cartridges or "pods" can also be filled with THC, CBD or other "e-juice."<sup>3</sup>

#### Are vape devices and e-cigarettes the same thing?

Yes, e-cigarettes and vaping devices are synonymous. Ever-evolving slang or brand names are also used to refer to vaping, including "blowing clouds," a nod to the smoke "cloud" produced by exhaling chemical-filled aerosols.

#### What do e-cigarettes and vaping devices look like?

E-cigarettes and vape devices come in a number of forms. While some resemble tobacco products, others resemble household objects like USB devices, pens, highlighters and chargers. Vaping devices like Puff Bar are designed for one-time use and are now disposable.

### **What are the signs of use?**

Vaping is easy to hide, and the signs can be easy to miss. Unlike traditional cigarettes, e-cigarettes don't leave the telltale scent of tobacco. If you notice any of the following things, it's best to talk with your child about whether or not they are vaping.

- Presence of unfamiliar technology, online purchases or packaging
- Faint sweet or fruity scents
- Behavioral and mood changes
- Increased irritability or restlessness
- Cutting back on caffeine
- Desire for flavor due to taste bud degradation
- Pneumonia
- Increased thirst
- Nosebleeds

## **Why Is Vaping Dangerous?**

### **Why should I be concerned if my child is vaping?**

Vaping is harmful and dangerous to kids. Almost all vape liquid contains nicotine, which is addictive and harmful to adolescent brain development, and vaping aerosols contain chemicals linked to serious lung disease, and heavy metals.<sup>4</sup>

### **What makes it addictive?**

E-cigarettes deliver a high level of nicotine very quickly. Each vape pod can contain as much nicotine as a pack of cigarettes.<sup>5</sup> And just so you know, nicotine is the third most addictive substance behind heroin and cocaine.<sup>6</sup>

Most kids don't know that the chemicals in e-cigarettes are addictive when they try vaping for the first time.

### **Why is nicotine so harmful?**

Nicotine is harmful to developing brains, affecting attention, learning, mood, impulse control, and memory.<sup>7</sup> Nicotine use in youth can increase risk for addiction to other drugs as well; research shows that teens who have vaped are almost four times as likely to go on to smoke traditional cigarettes.<sup>8</sup> The FDA is also investigating a link between seizures from nicotine overdose in kids caused by vaping.<sup>9</sup>

### **Why are kids trying it?**

Good kids vape, too. Peer pressure and managing stress are some of the main reasons that kids start vaping, even "high-achievers". And as kids learn about how it makes them feel, they become addicted and use it to cope with stress, anxiety or social situations. Some other reasons kids experiment with e-cigarettes include:

- Rebelliousness/independence
- Misinformation
- Social media influence
- Close family or friend influence
- Smoke tricks or interest in marijuana

## **What Is Behind The Epidemic?**

### **How many kids are vaping?**

14.1% of U.S. high-school students and 3.3% of middle schoolers currently vape as of 2021.<sup>10</sup> E-cigarettes have created a new trend of nicotine addiction among American teens. The FDA and U.S. Surgeon General have declared it an epidemic.

### **Has the FDA approved any e-cigarettes for use by teens?**

No vaping product has been approved by the FDA as a safe and effective way to quit and there aren't any studies to show the long-term side effects. In 2017, FDA published a rule clarifying that products made or derived from tobacco are regulated as tobacco products – including e-cigarettes and vaping devices.

And while FDA has issued an enforcement policy on flavored e-cigarette products, including fruit and mint flavors that appeal to kids, manufacturers are finding loopholes and continuing to market flavors to kids. A recent report revealed that 85% of kids who vape use flavored vaping products such as fruit, candy, menthol and mint<sup>10</sup>.

Additionally, many e-cigarette labels still do not disclose whether or not they contain nicotine. Even those that say they do not have nicotine have been found to contain it.<sup>11</sup>

### **What is Big Tobacco's involvement?**

Vaping companies are largely owned by Big Tobacco.

That's right – the same companies who funded and promoted cancer-causing cigarettes are the ones funding vaping. Tobacco companies have repackaged the same product and marketing tactics and are targeting our kids.

As parents, you are the best line of defense when it comes to educating and protecting your child. Talk to your kids, before someone else does first.

SEPTEMBER

S.T.A.R. RAIDERS

AWARD WINNERS

Grade 7	Grade 8
<b>Outstanding Citizenship</b>	
<b>Azizah Binti Mohamad Yassin</b> Nominated by: Ms. Wronka <b>Ja'Vaiei Roman</b> Nominated by: Mr. Martello	<b>Chrysanthemum Htoo</b> Nominated by: Ms. Ricci <b>Hsaku Thay</b> Nominated by: Ms. Pasqualicchio
<b>Most Improved</b>	
<b>Adonis Spencer</b> Nominated by Ms. Edick <b>Jadriel Rodriguez</b> Nominated by: Ms. Chesebro	<b>Emrah Pasic</b> Nominated by Ms. Buono <b>Dasaun Kittrell</b> Nominated by: Ms. Egresits
<b>Best Participation</b>	
<b>Amged Alzanam</b> Nominated by: Ms. Tessmer <b>Million Nine</b> Nominated by: Mr. Hawley	<b>Emelia Bower</b> Nominated by: Mr. Singleton <b>Liam Bickford-Manson</b> Nominated by: Ms. Adams
<b>Perfect Attendance</b>	
<b>Faisal Ayub</b> <b>James Holt III</b> <b>Vivianna McCurdy</b> <b>Dario Rodriguez-Nelson</b>	<b>Nicholas Diachuk</b> <b>Roy Hendricks</b> <b>Eh Reena Moo</b> <b>Olivia Woodley</b>

# November 2023

**DONOVAN  
MIDDLE  
SCHOOL**

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



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			DAY 1 01 ENL PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES IN LIBRARY ALL DAY	DAY 2 02	DAY 1 03	04
05	DAY 2 06 SUPERINTENDENT'S CONFERENCE DAY NO SCHOOL	DAY 1 07	DAY 1 08 PARENT EDUCATION SERIES 4:00PM MLK / GYMNASIUM	DAY 2 09	VETERANS DAY (OBSERVED) NO SCHOOL	
12	DAY 1 13	DAY 2 14	DAY 1 15	DAY 2 16	DAY 1 17	18
19	DAY 2 20 PAJAMA DAY MARKING PERIOD 1 REPORT CARDS MAILED HOME.	Day 1 21 GO HOME EARLY DRILL	22	HAPPY Thanksgiving	23	24
26	DAY 2 27	DAY 1 28	DAY 2 29	THANKSGIVING RECESS NO SCHOOL		25
	DAY 2 27	DAY 1 28	DAY 2 29	DAY 1 30		

**What's  
Going On...**  
www.uticaschools.org  
UticaCitySchoolDistrict

**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.