



JOHNSBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL
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Dear Parents,

We are writing to let you know that we have been seeing an increase in issues that concern us as administrators and as people who care about our students. You may have heard recently that brownies were being shared in high school that contained marijuana. After a lengthy investigation by the school and Warren County Sheriff's department, it has been confirmed, and we have taken action. We have reached out to all the parents that had students involved, and now we are reaching out to you to ask you to talk to your children about being well aware of what they are being given by their friends. As you probably know, candy such as gummies with THC is very popular in society now, and is sold in many places. Having marijuana legalized, which it is not for students, has increased its accessibility causing more students to have it available to them.

Another area of concern is that we have seen an increase in vaping. This has become an epidemic with some of our youth. Some parents may think this is the choice that students are making instead of smoking and that it is better for them, but that is not the case. Both are unhealthy and poisoning our children. Vaping came out years ago, claiming to be the "healthy" alternative to smoking. Research has found that it is as dangerous or even more dangerous than smoking. It has been targeted right at kids by adding flavors that are appealing to them. We doubt very much that we are telling you anything that you don't already know. We realize that you may think we are in a small school and our students are safe from these concerning issues, but unfortunately, that is not the case. All schools are facing the same issues, both larger and smaller districts. When we catch these students, we take action and discipline them. The most difficult part of this situation is that they don't realize they are punishing themselves far worse by using the substance in the first place. Also, society is seeing this as an issue with younger students. Students in upper elementary and middle school are starting to use vapes. These substances are extremely addictive, and students get addicted to them very quickly. What can we do? Talk to your children. The first line of defense in these situations is to have an honest conversation.

Here at school, we will continue to educate our students about the harmful effects of drugs. We have had and will continue to have agencies such as the Warren County Health Department and Council for Prevention talk to our students. We also have access to a program through the Warren County Youth Bureau to help children found to be at risk of or using Vape/E-cigarette devices.

The safety and well-being of our students will always be our top priority. By working together with you as parents, we will continue to tackle these challenges that our children are faced with today. Thank you.

Sincerely,


Michael Markwika
Superintendent


Heather Flanagan
Building Principal