

September 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians:

We are writing to you today in regards to the growing and dangerous trend that is negatively impacting our school community and putting student health at risk. The use of e-cigarettes, Juuls, and “dab pens,” also known as vape devices, has been on the rise at an alarming rate with teenagers around the country. A recent National Youth Tobacco Survey shows that e-cigarette use (vaping) increased by 78 percent between 2017 and 2018, with more than 3.6 million kids using e-cigarettes in 2018.<sup>1</sup>

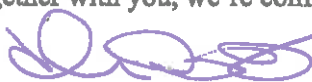
Schools in the District have been working to both educate students and provide disciplinary consequences to deter the use of these products since they arrived on the scene. However, as the use of these products has continued inside our schools and on our buses, and as the number of reported cases of lung injury and even death continues to rise, we are reaching out to our families to keep you informed and ask for your assistance.

As of September 17, 2019, the CDC (The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) has reported 530 cases of lung injury and 7 deaths.<sup>2</sup> Most patients in these cases have reported the use of either nicotine or THC (tetrahydrocannabinol). One of the scariest elements of this threat is that in each of these reported illnesses, physicians and researchers have been unable to identify the exact cause of illness. That being said, all reported cases have a history, sometimes brief, of e-cigarette product use or vaping and the number of reported cases is on the rise.

This year the District Code of Conduct Committee, which is made up of students, staff, and parents, helped Ray Middle School, Durgee Jr. High, and C.W. Baker High institute a new educational component to their disciplinary consequences. Any student violating the e-cigarette or vape product restriction as a first-time offender will be required to participate in an online vape education program provided by Vape Educate. The approximately 4-hour online course is completed in lieu of out-of-school suspension and contains information regarding the history and marketing of these products, the health risks for nicotine and THC vaping, and vape addiction.

While we provide educational support regarding these products for all students and reinforce the health risks for students who violate the Code of Conduct, our greatest resource in this fight to protect our kids is working together with you. We would ask that you talk to your children about the dangers of these products and have open conversations about why it is so important to all of us that they never start vaping or get help to quit. We also ask that you help us ensure that students have limited or no access to these products and that they are not carrying these products or related paraphernalia in their backpacks, on our buses, in our schools, or at our school events.

The District will provide online resources to students and parents, including access to up-to-date CDC reports, news stories, and strategies on how to discuss this critical topic with your kids. Please visit [www.bville.org](http://www.bville.org) for more information. The staff of the Baldwinsville Central School District truly cares for our kids and working together with you, we're confident that we can keep them educated, safe, and healthy!



Mr. Kris H. Denton  
Principal - C.W. Baker High



Mr. Thomas J. Fraher  
Principal - Durgee Jr. High



Mrs. Christina Morgan  
Principal - Ray Middle School

<sup>1</sup> SAANYS Special Report, *Student Vaping*, Sept. 2019

<sup>2</sup> CDC, [www.cdc.gov/tobacco](http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco), *Outbreak of Lung Injury Associated with E-cigarette Use, or Vaping*, Sept. 19, 2019