



Maritime Academy Charter School

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November 17, 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Important Notice Regarding Student Possession of Vape Pens

It has come to our attention in recent weeks that a few cadets were in possession of vape pens in school. As our Cadet Handbook details, this is a serious infraction that requires a strong response from the school. Although these incidents have been addressed and the cadets involved have faced major repercussions, we need the help of our families to ensure that these sorts of violations do not continue to occur at our school.

According to the results of the 2023 National Youth Tobacco Survey (NYTS), 10% of all students in the United States report using tobacco products. Of that group, the vast majority of respondents use vape pens. The NYTS shows that the number of American students that use vape pens currently stands at 2.1 million!

As many of you know, vaping poses significant health risks, especially for young individuals, and it is crucial that we work together to ensure the safety and well-being of all our cadets. Some of the risks associated with youth vaping include: cognitive deficits and memory issues, increased impulsivity and hyperactivity, increases in physical fighting, suicide, and drug and alcohol use. This is why we want all of our families aware of this issue and why we have been addressing it in lessons and assemblies in our school.

To address this concern, we are also taking the following steps:

1. Our school staff is being more vigilant in monitoring and addressing any signs of students possessing or using vape pens on school grounds.
2. We have been implementing educational programs to inform students about the dangers of vaping and its impact on health. We encourage parents to discuss this matter with their children at home as well.
3. We urge parents to communicate openly with their children about the risks associated with vaping. Please take this opportunity to reinforce the importance of making healthy choices.

4. It is imperative, if someone in your home smokes or vapes, that you remind your children not to handle vape pens or any other tobacco or marijuana (THC) products. You should also store vape pens somewhere safe and secure so children cannot access them.
5. We will conduct random bag checks of students to ensure that we are providing the safest environment for all of our cadets.
6. Cadets found in possession of vape pens will face disciplinary actions in accordance with our school policies. These policies are spelled out in our Cadet Handbook.

We understand that addressing this issue requires a joint effort, and we appreciate your cooperation in ensuring the well-being of our cadets. Together, we can create a school community that promotes a safe and nurturing environment for all.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact your child's teacher, counselor, or a school administrator.

Sincerely,

Eugene Mattioni

Eugene Mattioni, Esquire
CEO, Maritime Academy Charter School