



# CATSKILL MIDDLE SCHOOL

345 West Main Street – Catskill, New York 12414

518-943-5665

Kerry Overbaugh, Principal

Junait Shah, Assistant Principal

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

Catskill Middle School, similar to many other schools, has seen a recent spike in incidents involving student vaping. Complicating this issue is that there is varying information and misunderstandings involving vaping and/or electronic cigarettes. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the issue, alert you to possible repercussions if your child engages in vaping on school property, as well as what we are doing here to educate our children about the dangers of vaping. We take this issue very seriously due to the negative health effects vaping can have on our students and often find that our parents are often not aware of the risks around vaping.

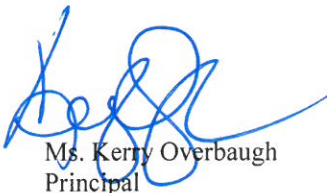
Vaping is the act of inhaling a vapor produced by an electronic vaporizer or e-cigarette. The vapor can contain nicotine, marijuana oil, and other substances. The liquids that are vaporized come in many different flavors and might even smell fruity. For example, many of the flavors of these liquid concentrates, or 'vape juices', are sweet and even have names such as, cinnamon roll, marshmallow, bubblegum, lemonade and cookies.

Vaporizers/e-cigarettes/juuls come in all different shapes. Some common styles we see look like a thick pen, a stylus for a iPad, a flash drive, or a small flask with a round chimney coming off the top. The devices are very small and can easily be hidden on a person or blend in with normal backpack items. Like cigarettes, stores cannot sell vaping items to people under the age of 18. However, students report that they purchase the devices online or buy from older siblings, friends, or unfortunately even parents.

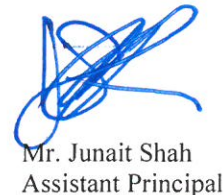
The Surgeon General reports that nicotine is addictive and can harm brain development, which continues until about age 25. We know that using nicotine may make it harder for school related tasks such as learning and concentration. In conversations with students, it appears that many are not aware of the harmful effects of vaping. Students either say they use nicotine-free liquid or that it is safer than tobacco cigarettes. To help combat the issue, Greene County Public Health will be coming into PE classes on October 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. They will be discussing potential health risks. Our health teachers will also be reiterating this information in all 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes.

Vaping and the possession of a vape is prohibited by the Catskill Central School District Student Handbook, which all students and parents/guardians sign off on to acknowledge their understanding of the rules and behavioral expectations at our middle school. While we try to proactively educate to prevent any incidents, there will be consequences if a student vapes on school property. The consequences for vaping can include suspensions(s), phone calls home, confiscation of the vaping device, and possible police involvement.

We hope you find this letter informative and understand our concerns about this potentially harmful issue. Our goal is to partner with parents to help support our students in making positive decisions for themselves and the middle school community. We encourage you to have a conversation with your child(ren) about this topic. We have included photos of vapes behind this letter. Thank you for your continued support of our school system.



Ms. Kerry Overbaugh  
Principal



Mr. Junait Shah  
Assistant Principal

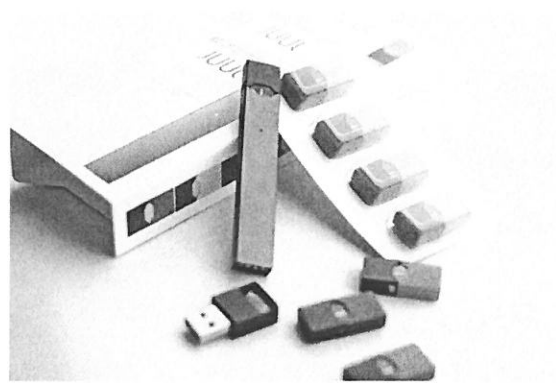
*Examples of vapes*



*Example of electronic cigarettes*



*Example of juuls*



*Example of vape oils*

