

Parents,

Culture, as defined by John Stonestreet in his book *A Practical Guide to Culture*, is the ‘*environment we live in and think is normal.*’ He also reminds us that we can become so immersed in the way of thinking and patterns of living that we become unable to recognize those patterns. At Silverdale, we have worked hard to create a culture that honors Christ in all we do. Our mission statement says, “*SBA’s mission is to partner with families to provide an environment of academic excellence with a Biblical worldviews, which is conducive to developing educated young people of character, while preparing them to represent our Lord Jesus Christ in all walks of life.*”

In an effort to partner with you to raise children who can leave us to impact their culture for Christ, we will be sharing some information periodically on ‘hot topics’ that this generation is facing.

Several weeks ago, you received access to some information from Roger Woods, our Director of Campus Life, on the Momo Challenge. I hope the information was helpful and if you did not get to read it , here is the [LINK](#).

This week we want to share some information regarding vaping. Some of the facts as we know it are:

Vaping:

- Tennessee Code 39-17-1505.
 - *It is **unlawful for a person who has not attained eighteen (18) years of age to possess a tobacco product, to purchase or accept receipt of a tobacco product, or to present or offer to any person any purported proof of age which is false, fraudulent, or not actually that person’s own for the purpose of purchasing or receiving any tobacco product.***
 - **Any person who violates this section shall be issued a citation by a law enforcement officer or school principal** who has evidence of the violation.
 - **The violation is a civil offense which has a penalty attached.**

- Vaping is different from traditional cigarettes because it relies on electricity. The heat of the battery heats the liquid into vapor.
- Vaping substances are not regulated by the FDA.
- People who vape are often willing to experiment with different liquids and do not realize that they can be extremely dangerous to one's health and is not recommended. Teens do not realize the dangers.
- Vapes look like a JUUL or USB port, they look like lipstick containers, and are small and hard to detect because manufacturers are working hard to camouflage them. The U.S. Surgeon General describes their growth and the associated dangers and we want to make sure that our parents are aware of what EVP devices are, and of the threat they pose to the health of our young people. This [factsheet](#) by the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids describes this information in detail and gives some pictures for you to see.

Are our students vaping at SBA?

Because we have a slice of culture here in our school, we think they are experimenting with this unlawful and unhealthy craze. According to National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), part of the National Institutes of Health, 6.6 % of eighth graders, 13.1% of 10th graders, and 16.6% of 12th graders have vaped in the last month.

What are we doing about it?

- Educating teachers and staff
- Alerting teachers and staff when we suspect vaping is taking place.
- Increasing our monitoring of halls and restrooms
- Talking to individual students and addressing this craze in Health and Bible classes.
- Discussing it in chapel with students.
- Educating students and parents on what we are learning and providing resources.

The SBA Discipline Code states on pages 76-82 that those who has been found vaping, or having vaping material on their person, we will meet with the students and their parents. If this is the first offense they will also “receive a one to five-day suspension and or/expulsion.” This suspension could also affect their extra-curricular activities and trips. If it becomes unmanageable for any reason a student may be asked to withdraw or may be expelled.” We also reserve the right to have any apparatus tested for drugs at the parent’s expense.

If you have further questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact us. We appreciate your collaboration as we address this new health concern with our young people. Below are links to various articles with tips and information about vaping. We take this health risk extremely serious and it is our prayer that you discuss this new issue that faces your child. Our children deem vaping as cool; that is precisely what the tobacco industry wants. It is up to us to change that perception. This is another example that we as Christians need to remember Ephesians 6 which tells us that this battle is not “*against flesh and blood,*” but “*against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.*” As a school we are joining you in seeking the Lord to show us how to train this generation.

Many blessings,
SBA Administration

https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/e-cigarettes/index.htm

https://e-cigarettes.surgeongeneral.gov/documents/SGR_ECig_ParentTipSheet_508.pdf

<https://www.sciencenewsforstudents.org/article/concerns-explode-over-new-health-risks-vaping>