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Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick
Superintendent-Director

Dear Parents and Guardians of our Student-Athletes,

The increase use of vape pens and e-cigarettes has now reached a level of heighten concern, especially as it relates to our student-athletes. This modified form of smoking appears to be safer, but the reality is that it is still nicotine, still addicting and still illegal for any aged student-athlete.

The Commissioner of Mass Public Health Dr. Monida Bharel notes that "Nicotine is addictive and has a negative impact on teen brain development, including increase risk for depression, mood disorders and future substance misuse. That is why education parents on these risks is so important." This is why we are reaching out to you today, to ask for your partnership in combating this alarming trend amongst our youth.

Punishments for partaking in this activity on school grounds, will result in a multiple day out-of-house suspension, which could also lead to loss of National Honor Society(ies) membership, loss of co-op eligibility and more. In addition all athletes, whether found at school or off campus, using any vaping device is in violation of the MIAA Chemical Health Policy and is subjected to a game suspension of 25% for the first offense, 60% for the second and a yearlong suspension for the third offense.

The hardest thing about the vaping is the lack of smoke, smell and design of the productions. It is important for you to start the conversation at home. To help you learn more about what to look for in identifying vaping materials and its effect, we urge you to visit the <http://makesmokinghistory.org/dangers-of-vaping/>.

If you would like to speak with one of us or have more questions, please feel free to contact us. We are hoping this will be the first step in being pro-active to protect our athletes from this risky behavior.

Regards,

Michele Denise
Director of Athletics

Courtney Boynton
Athletic Trainer