

GREATER LATROBE SCHOOL DISTRICT

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
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Laurie H. Golobish
Director of Pupil Services

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May 1, 2019

Dear Greater Latrobe School District Families:

This letter is to inform you about a potentially life-threatening epidemic that has become popular among teens and young adults.

Electronic cigarettes and vaporizers have become common place with students in Greater Latrobe and surrounding districts. The act of “vaping” occurs when any liquefied substance is placed into a vaporizing device and inhaled. These devices may commonly be referred to as Vape pens, Juul pens, or Dab pens. They are easily purchased online or in many convenience store locations. The devices are small and may be mistaken for pens, flash drives, or make-up such as lip gloss or eye liner.

Many teens do not believe that there is any harm in the inhaled substances. The vaping liquids typically contain nicotine, but substances such as THC (the active agent in marijuana) and cocaine have recently been found in the devices. **Individuals who vape these substances may be at risk for immediate medical emergencies, including shortness of breath, rapid heart rate, cardiac arrest or death.** There is no way for an individual to know what substances are actually in the vaping liquid because these products are not uniformly regulated. Students may become highly addicted in a short time period because of the high concentration of the chemicals in the vape liquid.

Vaping has crossed all demographics of students within Greater Latrobe and has already caused serious medical emergencies. I urge you to discuss these dangers with the child or children in your family. The organization Breathe Pennsylvania has information for parents at <https://www.breathepa.org/programs/school-anti-smoking-program>. The Greater Latrobe School District Student Assistance Programs can also provide resources for parents on addiction and treatment programs for youth. If you have additional questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me for more information.

Sincerely,

Laurie H. Golobish

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Director of Pupil Services