



ENTERPRISE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Empowering every child, every day to create a better world

October 7, 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians,

You may have seen news alerts recently about the dangers of “rainbow” fentanyl. Because we all care deeply about supporting our young people so that they grow up healthy and safe, I am providing some further information on this topic. Of particular concern is that this brightly colored version looks like candy, which could be appealing to younger children. Even though overall the use of drugs among adolescents has declined in recent years, overdose deaths have increased as a direct result of how deadly fentanyl-laced products are.

I encourage you to talk to your children about how to keep themselves safe and make good decisions. This can be difficult, but it is so important to teach your child what your expectations are and to prepare them for how to respond in risky situations. Use scenarios as they arise to ask questions about what your child thinks, how they would handle a similar situation and/or the risks involved. Tell your children often that you will come get them any time if they need to leave a place where alcohol or drugs are being used. Promise them they won't get in trouble for calling you.

There are two attachments provided as resources. One contains more information on fentanyl. The other is *A Parent's Guide to Substance Use Prevention* with ideas on how to have age-appropriate conversations with preschoolers, elementary, middle, and high school students. Below are some simple tips to keep in mind:

- Be a good listener and talk with your child often.
- Set clear expectations about drug and alcohol use.
- Help your child deal with peer pressure by practicing ways to respond.
- Get to know your child's friends and their parents.
- Monitor your child's whereabouts and supervise activities.
- Do not leave unused medications in accessible places in your home.
- Explain the harm of drugs/alcohol and that even medicine can make you sick if misused.
- Praise them when they do something well or show good effort.

What adults say to kids about substance use matters. Keep the lines of communication strong so that your children know they can ask you questions about these issues. Often parents assume their children would never use drugs or alcohol, but it's important to talk about it. It's never too early to start the conversation.

Finally, we are offering a 2-part series on *Parenting in a Digital World*. You can earn a \$25 gift card just for attending. Hope to see you on October 13 & 20!

Sincerely,

Superintendent