



Superintendent Goguen

January 25, 2019

Dear Students, Families and Staff,

Home-School Communication- Attendance Concerns

We are asking parents/guardians to assist us with monitoring students' attendance. Our data indicates that we have chronic absenteeism at all our schools. When students miss school repeatedly they fall behind, miss opportunities to become involved with their learning and peers and this negatively impacts student engagement levels and an individual's learning process. If your son or daughter is struggling with attendance issues, it is crucial that we work together to figure out how to resolve the issue. The home-school connection is essential and together we must work on making sure ALL our students come to school on time and come each day. Our guidance staff are currently working on new plans on how to better assist families and students with attendance issues. If you have some new ideas, please feel free to contact your school counseling office to share your feedback.

Home-School Communication - Vaping/ drugs

The Webster Public Schools are required by law to be drug and tobacco free zones. Students who are bringing vapes or drugs to school will be disciplined accordingly. I am pleased to inform you that we are currently working on bringing educational programming to our staff and students on the dangers of vaping. On February 5th, Tina Grosowsky from the Central MA Tobacco Free Community Partnership will be presenting to the WMS staff. I am attaching resources and websites for parents/guardians to assist you with information that may be helpful when discussing the dangers of drugs and vaping with your child/children.

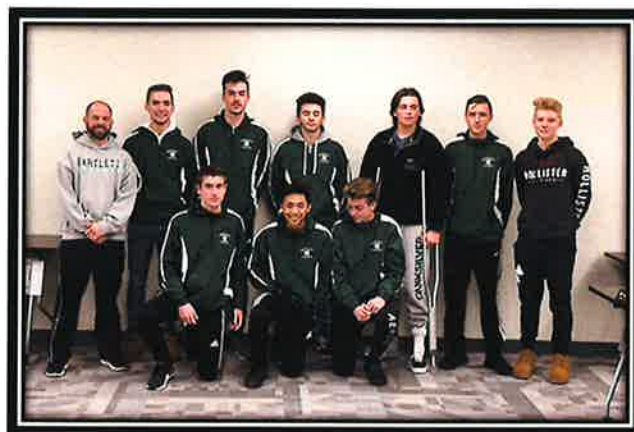
<http://makesmokinghistory.org/dangers-of-vaping/>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/04/04/opinion/formaldehyde-diacetyl-e-cigs.html>

Congratulations to the BHS Basketball Team who are going to the playoffs!



The BHS Boys Soccer Team and Coach Renauld were recognized at the last School Committee meeting on receiving the Sportsmanship Award from the Central Mass. Soccer Coaches Association!



Congratulations to Brian James who was recognized at the last School Committee meeting as the 2018 Worcester County Superintendent's Scholar!



Congratulations to

Congratulations to our BHS Artists who have their work displayed at Anna Maria College. The exhibition is open through February 8th.

ANNA MARIA COLLEGE annual exhibition 2019
New England secondary school Art/Design competition

Bartlett Artists:
Vivian Adams
Stephanie Boersma
Miles Clement
Sam Coombs
Allison Grzembski
Ranxel Gutierrez-Medina
Brian James
Victoria Mann
Brandi Mercer
Rodel Portante
Juan Rivas Arevalo
Elias Taborda
Zoey Tremblay

Art Center Gallery
Anna Maria College
50 Sunset Lane
Paxton, MA 01612

Opening Reception 1/23/19 6-8pm
Exhibition Dates: 1/23/19 - 2/08/19



Community Events:

1. The Webster Recreation Department is trying something NEW! March 22nd they will have their first "Mystery night at the Town Hall" This is for kids ages 12-15. All kids will be given a character and have to use their detective skills to solve the crime. This is a free event and refreshments will be served but RSVP'ing is necessary. Students will be asked to "dress the part" of the character they are given, and the appropriate kit has to be purchased for the amount of attendees. Please RSVP by March 1st to recreation@webster-ma.gov. Questions should be directed to Carol Marchand, Recreation Director, 508-949-3800 x 1023 - FLYER IS ATTACHED
2. The Webster Board of Health will be conducting a public hearing on flavored tobacco restriction regulations on Monday, February 11th at 5:00 p.m. at the Fire Station.

In Webster...Kindness Matters,

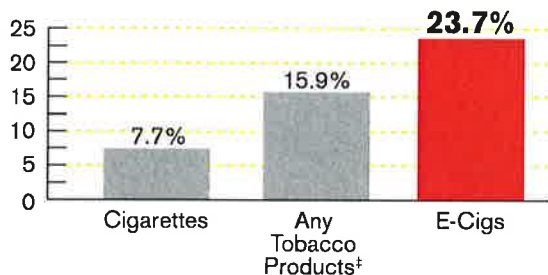
Ruthann Petruno-Goguen

Big Tobacco is Sweet Talking Our Kids!

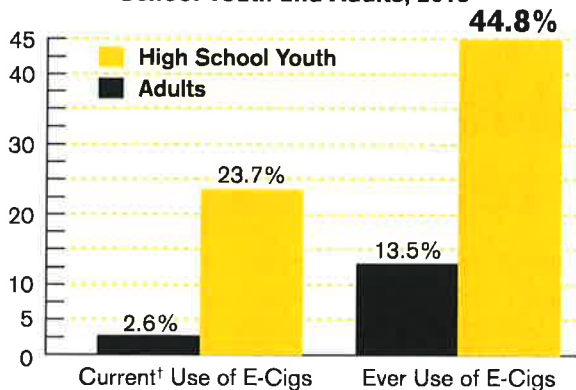
Did you know?

In Massachusetts, almost 24% of high-school students reported using e-cigarettes, and nearly half tried them at least once. More high school youth used e-cigarettes than all other tobacco products combined, AND they used them nine times more often than adults.

Current[†] Use of Tobacco Products by Massachusetts High School Youth, 2015



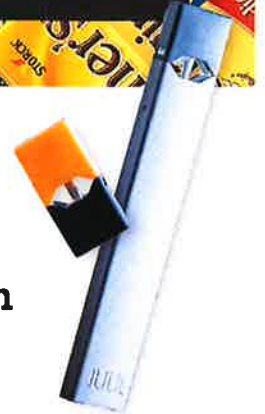
E-Cigarette Use Among Massachusetts High School Youth and Adults, 2015



[†] Use in the past 30 days.

[‡] Any tobacco is defined as cigarettes, cigars (including little cigars and cigarillos), and smokeless tobacco (such as chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip).

Vape pens and e-cigarettes are not harmless. They contain nicotine and other harmful chemicals.



The tobacco industry makes its products:

Sweet: E-cigarettes or vape pens come in over 8,000 different flavors. Flavors are the leading reason that youth are using e-cigarettes.

Cheap: Products are cheaply priced to encourage impulse buys by young people.

Easy to Get: These products are at gas stations, corner stores, pharmacies, mini-marts, and many more types of stores.



Talk with your kids!

Talk with your teenagers about vaping and make sure they know it's harmful. Nicotine is addictive and affects their brain development negatively, including increased risk for depression, mood disorders, or future drug addiction. The earlier they start, the harder it is to quit.



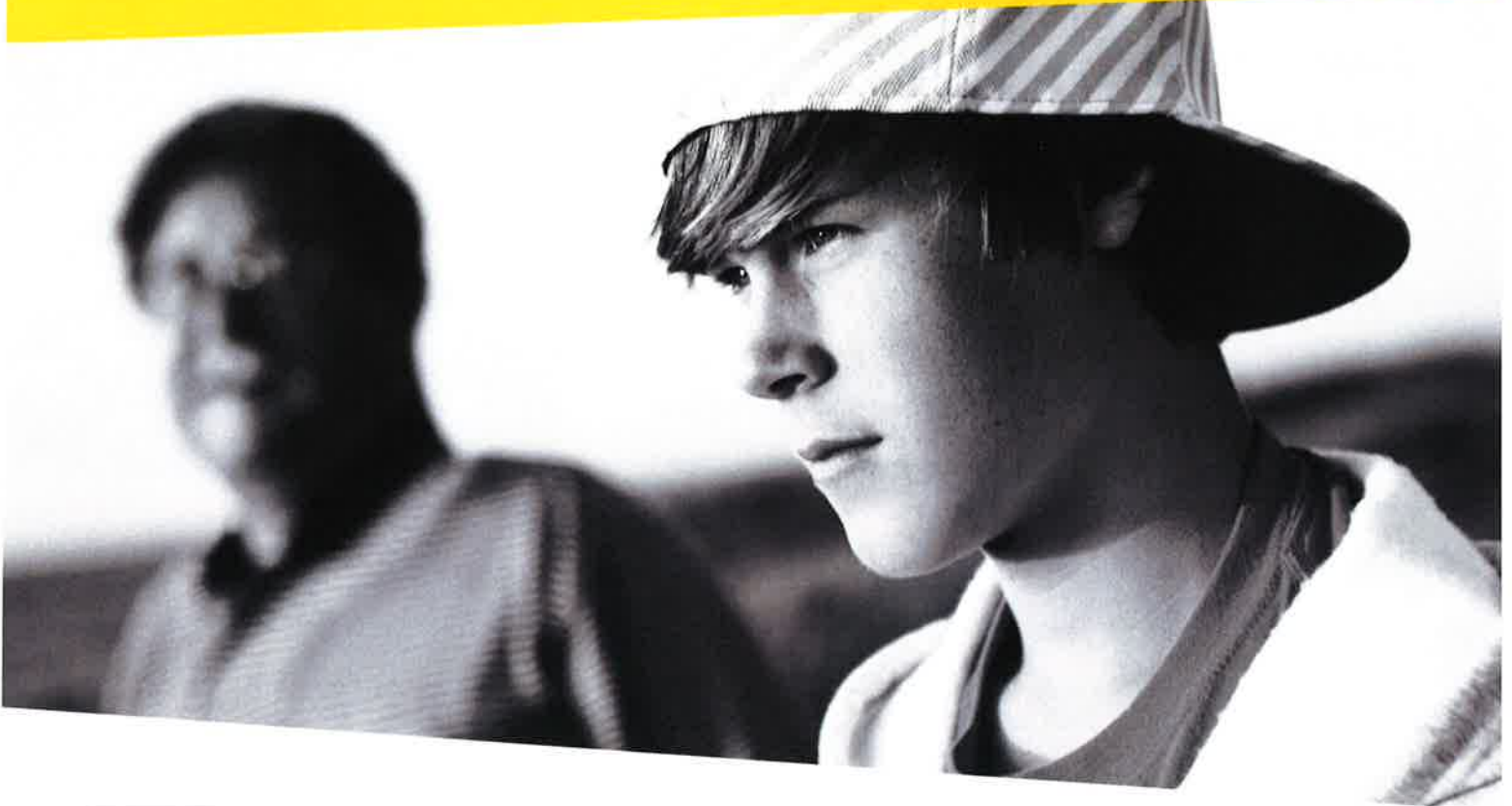
Make smoking history.

GET OUTRAGED!

For more information, visit GetOutraged.org, or contact Tina Grosowsky, Project Coordinator, Central MA Tobacco Free Community Partnership, UMass Medical School by phone: (508) 856-5067 or email: tina.grosowsky@umassmed.edu



Talk with Your Teen About E-cigarettes: A Tip Sheet for Parents



BEFORE THE TALK

Know the facts.

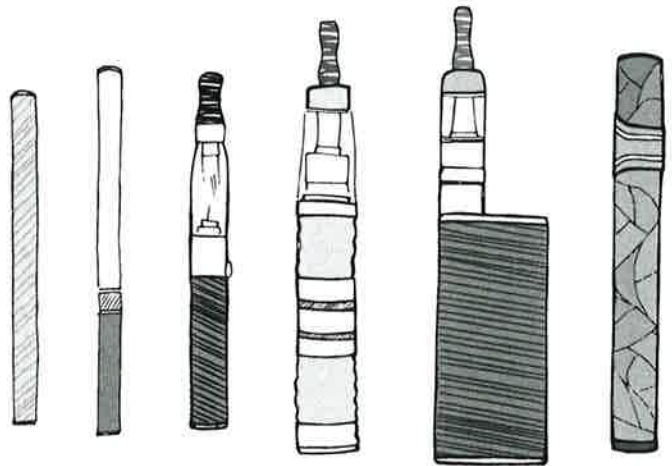
- Get credible information about e-cigarettes and young people at E-cigarettes.SurgeonGeneral.gov.

Be patient and ready to listen.

- Avoid criticism and encourage an open dialogue.
- Remember, your goal is to have a conversation, not to deliver a lecture.
- It's OK for your conversation to take place over time, in bits and pieces.

Set a positive example by being tobacco-free.

- If you use tobacco, it's never too late to quit. For free help, visit smokefree.gov or call **1-800-QUIT-NOW**.



- I don't say this to scare you, but I want you to have the facts because nothing is more important to me than your health and safety.

Aren't e-cigarettes safer than conventional cigarettes?

- Because your brain is still developing, scientific studies show that it isn't safe for you to use any tobacco product that contains nicotine, including e-cigarettes.
- Whether you get nicotine from an e-cigarette or a cigarette, it's still risky.
- Some e-cigarette batteries have even exploded and hurt people.

I thought e-cigarettes didn't have nicotine—just water and flavoring?

- I used to think that too. But many e-cigarettes have nicotine. There are also other chemicals in them that can be harmful.
- Let's look at the Surgeon General's website on e-cigarettes (E-cigarettes.SurgeonGeneral.gov) together so you can see for yourself.

I (or my friends) have tried e-cigarettes and it was no big deal.

- I appreciate your honesty. In the future, I hope you (or your friends) will stay away from e-cigarettes and other tobacco products, including cigarettes. Science shows that e-cigarettes contain ingredients that are addictive and could harm different parts of your body.
- Next time we go to the doctor, let's ask about the risks of nicotine, e-cigarettes, and other tobacco products.

You used tobacco, so why shouldn't I?

- If I could live my life over again, I never would have started smoking. I learned that people who smoke cigarettes are much more likely to develop, and die from, certain diseases than people who don't smoke. This was really scary, so I quit smoking.
- Quitting was really hard, and I don't want you to go through that. The best thing is to not start at all.



Big Tobacco targets **kids.**

*The more they're exposed,
the more likely they are to smoke.*



It's a fact: Research shows that kids who shop at stores with tobacco two or more times a week are **64% more likely to start smoking than their peers who don't.***

Make smoking history.

*Source: Henriksen, Schleicher, Feighery and Fortmann. Pediatrics: The Official Journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics, July 19, 2010, DOI: 10.1542/peds.2009.3021

Big Tobacco is at it Again

The tobacco industry is always trying to grow profits, and it's at the expense of our nation's youth. They're targeting kids with sweet, cheap, and easy to get tobacco products using popular fruit and candy-like flavors. Flavored tobacco products are typically priced below five dollars and widely available at retailers frequented by youth.

Little Cigars, Cigarillos, and Tip Cigars

These types of tobacco products feature candy-like flavors and come in varying sizes and shapes. Tobacco companies price them at levels that are attractive to youth, often selling them for less than one dollar each.



E-Cigarettes

E-cigarettes (also known as e-cigs, e-hookahs, or vape pens) are battery-powered vaporizers that simulate the action and sensation of smoking. The products don't use tobacco, but most contain and deliver nicotine. The user inhales aerosol, commonly called vaping. E-cigarettes come in many different sizes, varieties, flavors, and colors and are usually cheaper than cigarettes.



E-Liquids

E-liquid, e-fluid, or e-juice is the mixture used in vapor products such as e-cigarettes. Available in many variations, e-liquids feature a range of nicotine strengths and flavors. In addition to nicotine and flavorings, they usually contain chemicals like propylene glycol and glycerin.³



Blunts and Blunt Wraps

While blunts and blunt wraps are typically associated with marijuana use, they are made of tobacco, come in many fruit and candy flavors, and can cost as low as 59 cents. Smoking these products can lead to nicotine addiction among youth.



Chewing and Dipping Tobacco

Dipping tobacco (dip) consists of shredded tobacco leaves that users place between their lower lip and gum. It is not chewed. Chewing tobacco (chew) is made up of tobacco leaves that users place between their cheeks and gum and "chew." Excess liquid is spit out.



*Mystery at the town hall
auditorium*



Saturday March 22nd 6-8:30pm

RSVP by March 1st

recreation@webster-ma.gov