

NORWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL

2060 Sherman Avenue, Norwood, Ohio 45212

Mr. Joe Westendorf, Principal

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Dear Norwood Middle School Parents,

We care deeply about young people emerging strong and healthy beyond their school years and maintaining a healthy future for years to come. Norwood Middle Schools wants to join you in promoting healthy choices and a great future for the upcoming generation.

Across the country, some young people have received misinformation about vaping and marijuana in recent years. Generally speaking, neither are safe for young developing brains or lungs. Whatever your beliefs are for adults, most can agree that nicotine found in e-cigarettes is addictive and not a good idea for youth. Health practitioners agree that the brain is not fully developed until around age 25. If you can encourage young people to stay away from substances while they are young, then they are less likely to form an addiction now or later in life.

Please encourage healthy stress relief activities like exercise, talking with a friend or mentor, being involved in after school clubs, music, or sports. Students who report that adults talk to them about this topic tend to stay away from harmful substances. Caring adults make a big difference. If you are looking for more information about protective factors, please review insights from the Search Institute regarding the 40 Developmental Assets and Developmental Relationships.

I want to be upfront with you that we do not want to get youth in trouble. We view issues with addiction as a mental health challenge. If your child needs help with a substance, please ask for ideas or a referral from our counselors or school social workers. At the same time, we do not want any substances in our buildings. We ask that you share the following information with your children.

Just as in years' past we will have a drug dog visit the campus frequently. He will sniff out any items that should not be present in lockers or other places. Also, we have devices in the building that will alert adults if a vape is being used. The best thing to do is not to bring any substances to school.

The reality is that the majority of students are making good choices every day! This letter is not meant to concern you but simply to be honest about the challenges youth face. Let's make it a fantastic school year where we celebrate academic success and healthy choices along the way.

Mr. Joe Westendorf

Principal

Norwood Middle School

Norwood City School District

