



---

October 14, 2018

Dear ECS Parents;

The purpose of this letter is to bring to your attention a growing problem throughout schools across the country; student use of electronic cigarettes, other wise known as vaping. According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) teen vaping is trending towards an “epidemic of addiction.”

As educators we are seeing the effects of vaping amongst our students at ECS. While this by no means makes us unique, it’s very important for parents to understand that Ellsworth is not immune to this ever-growing problem.

In order to better educate parents and the community, ECS and the Northwest Michigan Health Department will be jointly hosting a vaping seminar for parents in November. In the meantime, please take a moment to read the following news articles which helps to explain the increasing epidemic of teen vaping in our region and across the nation.

[Traverse City Record Eagle – The Shape of Vape](#)

[CBS News – FDA calls teen vaping an ‘epidemic’](#)

As an educator and parent I cannot urge you enough to have a conversation with your child about the dangers of electronic cigarettes and vaping. Contrary to what students may think, vaping is NOT safe. Products such as Juul and other “vapes” contain high concentrations of nicotine, and as a result our children are becoming hooked and addicted to these candy flavored chemicals. In addition the easily concealed and the relatively odorless nature of these products allows students to use them undetected in almost any situation. Please take a moment to read through the following presentation on vaping that highlights some of the health concerns, describes how products are being marketed to kids, and explain in detail how vapes look and function.

[The New Look of Nicotine Addiction](#)

Please look for more information in the coming weeks concerning the parent information night held at ECS. Between now and then, please discuss this important issue with your children. You cannot assume that your students are immune. If you find that your child is vaping and in need of nicotine addiction support please contact [BASES Teen Center](#) in Charlevoix at 231-547-1144. If you have further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at school.

Sincerely,

Aaron Gaffney, Superintendent

---

**ELLSWORTH COMMUNITY SCHOOL**

*“Small School Relationships ... Big School Opportunities!”*

9467 Park Street  
Ellsworth, Michigan 49729  
Telephone: (231) 588-2544  
Fax: (231) 588-6183

[www.ellsworth.k12.mi.us](http://www.ellsworth.k12.mi.us)  
[info@ellsworth.k12.mi.us](mailto:info@ellsworth.k12.mi.us)  
[www.facebook.com/EllsworthLancers](https://www.facebook.com/EllsworthLancers)  
search **Ellsworth Lancers, MI** in the App Store and on Google Play