

September 10, 2019

Dear O.L. Smith Community,

School is about learning, but school is also about opportunities to interact with others, build relationships, and grow as a person. All of these activities contribute to the overall school experience. Athletic competition, in particular football, is one of many traditions here at O.L. Smith and provides students with valuable learning experiences outside of the classroom.

It is in this spirit of providing learning outside the classroom that a decision was made to not take part in our first football game of the season. This decision did not come lightly and indicates the seriousness of the issue that lead to this action.

Smith administrators discovered that several students, some members of our football team, have made poor decisions and were taking part in vaping between the end of the school day and the start of football practice. We have reason to believe there are several other students involved as well. As many of you may be aware, the rise of young people taking part in the highly addictive and dangerous behavior of vaping has become a growing problem in schools across the country.

Instead of participating in the football game on Thursday, our team will use this time to take part in a presentation on vaping awareness. The goal of this presentation is to support our students, help them to make healthy choices, and prepare them for a healthy future.

We understand that our students take their academics and their extra curricular activities very seriously. We hope this short-term loss will be a valuable lesson and, more importantly, a learning opportunity that will provide long term benefits. It is very easy to dwell on the disappointments of the here and now but understanding that our actions have an impact on the broader future truly brings about growth and maturity.

It is our hope that you would take this opportunity as a learning experience to openly discuss with your child the impact of vaping on a person's health.

Regards,

Zeina Jebril
Principal
O.L. Smith