

# GRAND COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL



Home of the Red Devils • 608 South 400 East, Moab, Utah 84532

Phone: (435) 259-8931 • Fax: (435) 259-4191 • [www.grandschools.org/highschool](http://www.grandschools.org/highschool)

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December 20, 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians of GCHS Students,

I am writing this letter to share a concern that I and the rest of the staff have regarding an increased prevalence of e-cigarette (vaping) and marijuana use among our students and to share some information in order to increase your awareness so we can address this issue together.

You need to know that if a student is caught with vaping substances, vaping devices, marijuana/THC related products, or paraphernalia, it is considered a safe school violation and comes with an automatic 10 days out of school suspension. To date, we have already had 12 safe school violations and 9 of the 12, or 75% are related to vaping or marijuana/THC related products. These data are significant and our student use of these substances need our attention.

The following are some related articles that you may find useful to help you be better informed.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-news/more-teens-are-vaping-many-think-it-s-nicotine-free-n948251>.

This article is from NBC news and shares that students often think they are only vaping flavoring when in fact they are consuming nicotine. One needs to know that the vape oils have no regulation at this time. Therefore, the contents are not fully known or disclosed.

<https://www.deseretnews.com/article/900013255/utah-survey-finds-over-20-in-8th-grade-or-above-tried-vaping.html>.

This article is from the Deseret News and shares some statistics about teen use of vape products and alcohol consumption.

<https://teens.drugabuse.gov/blog/post/dabbing-dangerous/>

This article is about Dabs and Dabbing. Dabs are a highly concentrated form of THC (The chemical in marijuana that creates the high). Some Dabs can have THC concentrations of 80% or more. The GCHS site based therapist noted that Dabs have caused psychotic episodes in some users that can have dramatic negative effects.

<https://wellnessbased.com/what-parents-should-know-about-juuling/>.

This last article is about vaping. Juuls are vaping devices that look much like a computer flash drive. Many of the vaping devices are easily mistaken for common objects like computer flash drives or pens. This is one of the reasons it is difficult to detect the devices in school unless one looks very closely at the items.

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Dr. Stephen Hren  
Principal

Dr. Mary Marable  
Assistant Principal

Mr. Ron Dolphin, CAA  
Activities Director

Mr. James Stocks, Ed.S.  
CTE Director

**To educate all students in a safe, supportive, challenging environment where they can learn to be responsible citizens and lifelong learners**

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In closing, I invite you to have discussions with your student regarding vaping and marijuana use. The initial way to reduce the use of these products is to have an open dialogue about the dangers of their use and potential long term effects regarding addiction and other potential problems. We need to deal with this issue together. As a team, we will make a difference.

If you have any further questions or comments, please contact me at the following phone numbers: Office 719-4890 or Cell 260-6020. You can also contact Dr. Marable, GCHS Assistant Principal, at 719-4891. You can e-mail us at: [hrens@grandschools.org](mailto:hrens@grandschools.org) and [marablem@grandschools.org](mailto:marablem@grandschools.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Hren". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Dr. Stephen Hren  
Principal, GCHS

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