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MOUNT SINAI HIGH SCHOOL

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Dear Parents / Guardians:

The purpose of this letter is to once again address the ever-increasing use of vapes and/or e-cigarettes by today's teenage population, as well as alert you to the possible repercussions if your child engages in vaping and/or is in possession of vaping paraphernalia on school property. We take this issue very seriously due to the negative health effects vaping can have on our students and the negative impact to the health and safety of all our students.

Vaping has been plaguing our young adults for many years, however now we are finding students have shifted from nicotine-based substances to also include marijuana-based (THC) substances. It is unclear if this can be attributed to the recent marijuana legalization in NYS, however it seems abundantly clear that more and more students are abusing these devices. Simply put, this is becoming a serious problem in most school communities and these devices and substances have no place in schools or on school grounds.

Therefore, in addition to the previous attempts to curtail this behavior through our Code of Conduct, educational assemblies/programs and our Health curriculum, we will continue to utilize our Scholar Chip system at each of the four main student bathrooms, which seem to be the areas our students are abusing these devices. In order to maintain a healthy school environment, we will continue to monitor student bathroom use. Please assist us by speaking to your child and making sure that your child locates his/her Scholar Chip ID card and carries it throughout the day. Students that cannot locate their ID cards should come to the main office to sign up for a replacement.

Please be reminded that all incidents will be handled in accordance to the *Parent/Student Handbook* and *Code of Conduct*. Consequences include suspension from school, removal or suspension from athletic teams and co-curricular organizations, and ineligibility to participate in events such as school trips, proms, and commencement ceremony.

We ask that you support our school safety initiatives by also being vigilant. Consider checking your child's belongings from time to time. It is alarming how easily accessible and addictive these devices have become.

We thank you in advance for being a partner with us in your child's education. We need to work together as new trends emerge that risk the health and safety of our children. The High School website also has informational links and resources that we encourage you to review with your children.

Sincerely,

Peter J. Pramataris  
Principal

Christina Romeo  
Assistant Principal