

**Eugene Brooks Intermediate School**

Matthew Pascale, Principal  
194 Haight Road  
Amenia, NY 12501  
(845) 373- 4100 Ext. 2200

---

**Webutuck High School**

Robert Knuschke, Principal  
194 Haight Road  
Amenia, NY 12501  
(845) 373- 4100 Ext. 3300

---

Dear Wildcat Families,

We hope that you are enjoying a well deserved summer break after a very successful school year. Both Eugene Brooks Intermediate School (EBIS) and Webutuck High School (WHS) saw improvements in attendance, student performance, participation in extracurricular activities, and parent involvement. However, as we reflected on the 2022-23 school year and looked for ways to continue to improve and better support our students, we identified a growing concern that impacts our middle grades and high school students.

The number of incidents of students using or possessing vape or tobacco products on campus increased during the 2022-23 school year at both EBIS and WHS. This increase is not unique to Webutuck. Many area middle schools and high schools are reporting similar and more significant concerns.

From a health-risk point of view, many of the products that underage students are now gaining access to, are not just traditional nicotine products. Many of them are vapes or e-cigarettes that contain **tetrahydrocannabinol (THC)**, the active and intoxicating ingredient in marijuana. Both nicotine and THC carry significant health risks for people of any age, but adolescents (teenagers) are especially at-risk for short-term and long-term health risks.

According to the [United States Surgeon General](#), ***“Youth and young adults are also uniquely at risk for long-term, long-lasting effects of exposing their developing brains to nicotine. These risks include nicotine addiction, mood disorders, and permanent lowering of impulse control.”***

\* (see the full article in the highlighted link above)

The [Mayo Clinic Health Network](#) reports, ***“Marijuana (THC) use among adolescents and young adults can affect normal brain development, leading to problems in learning, memory, coordination, reaction time and judgment. Excessive and frequent use of marijuana is associated with hallucinations, paranoia, and a range of emotional problems.”***

\* (see the full article in the highlighted link above)

Student use of Vape/Smoking products also presents conduct and school safety concerns. The New York State Department of Education and the Federal Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989, and Webutuck Central School District policy strictly prohibit tobacco products, drugs, and alcohol on school campuses. No individual regardless of age, can possess or use tobacco, drugs, or alcohol on any school campus. Additionally, vaping/smoking products (including marijuana vapes) are only legal for people 21 years of age or older.

Possession or use of any of these products in school or on school grounds creates a significant disruption of the school day and threatens the health, safety, and welfare of other students.

**How are EBIS and WHS Currently Addressing This Problem?**

- Currently, EBIS and WHS offer vaping/smoking/drug prevention education through our Health and PE classes.
- [The Webutuck School Based Health Clinic](#) (SBHC) offers information and resources for students who are struggling with tobacco and drug addiction. **(845) 247-1040**
- EBIS and WHS have 2 social workers and 3 counselors who can help students and parents/caregivers find resources for addiction and smoking cessation.
- During the 2023-2024 school year, EBIS and WHS will be offering assemblies and presentations for students and parents/caregivers on the risks of vaping/smoking.
- Both EBIS and WHS currently have Vape/Smoking detection sensors in some of the schools' bathrooms. Additional sensors will be installed into common area bathrooms and locker rooms.

Thank you so much for your help and support and if you have any questions or concerns please contact us at the main offices at EBI and WHS.

Respectfully,

Matt Pascale, EBIS Principal

Rob Knuschke, WHS Principal