

FANNIN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

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SUPERINTENDENT
Dr. Michael Gwatney



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September 6, 2018

Dear FCSS Community:

I would like to thank you for a great start to the 2018-2019 school year. I am thankful for our community, especially our people – both children and adults. I am continually impressed with how our students are always the focus of this caring community. Along this line, it has come to my attention that a troubling new trend has developed recently in the northern part of our state, including here in Fannin County. I received a call earlier today from District Attorney B. Alison Sosebee. She reported that several students in nearby counties are using electronic cigarettes and requiring medical attention. The devices are known as “vapes” or “juuls,” and students are inhaling a variety of substances with them. This issue has occurred in our own county, and one substance known as “kronic” is being sold locally; it has resulted in students experiencing serious reactions. Some of these students have required emergency medical attention and subsequent transport to a hospital.

The Fannin County School System is working to educate students about the dangers of “vaping” and the use of other controlled substances. We will do this in an age-appropriate manner and in conjunction with community resources, including District Attorney Sosebee and Sheriff Dane Kirby. We ask you to please help us at home; if you have not already done so, please talk to your child(ren) about the seriousness of vaping, in all forms and with any substances, and also about the dangers of using any other controlled substances. These activities are not allowed at school and will be treated with disciplinary action. More importantly, though, your child’s safety is at risk. Vaping devices come in a variety of forms and can look like USB flash drives, lighters, pens, and other common items. The school district has posted pictures of various devices to watch for on our Facebook page (Fannin County School System). For more information on vaping, you may refer to the CDC website at the following website: https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/e-cigarettes/index.htm.

Please know your child’s safety is the top priority. Thank you for your help to ensure that our students are safe and able to reach their personal best. Be sure to contact your child’s school or my office if you have questions. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Gwatney".

Michael Gwatney, Ed.D.
Superintendent

It is the policy of Fannin County School System to not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, creed or disability in admission to its programs, services, and activities in access to them, in treatment of individuals or in any aspect of their operations to also include but not be limited to additions, modifications, or alterations to the physical plan of any school facility. For additional information contact the system superintendent's office.