

THE CHARGER

WHS attempts to combat vaping

Abby Oliver
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E-cigarettes or “vaping” has become a widespread problem across adolescents and young adults, and students at WHS are no exception.

According to CNN, teen vaping increased nearly 80 percent in the last year. This new trend also created a complication for high schools across America.

“As the administration and staff, we are being proactive as possible to prevent this problem from arising at WHS,” WHS principal Jan Hutley said. The high school has taken initiative by locking locker rooms during the day, and enforcing hall passes for students. “We don’t want to sit back and wait to catch someone.”

Although the WHS handbook doesn’t specifically mention e-

cigarettes, Hutley clarified they fall under the tobacco section.

“It’s important for students to be aware of the consequences that will be given to them if they make this choice,” Hutley said. She also conducted a meeting with each of the classes in WHS to explain the school’s policies. “This will also be treated like any other offense against tobacco products, alcohol or drugs, and law enforcement will have to be contacted.”

Many students are also unaware of the health risks that come with vaping. In a survey conducted by Charger staff, 59 percent of students believed that vaping had the same or less of health risks than smoking cigarettes. Although hazards like second-hand smoke are canceled out, vaping actually creates more of a health risk for the user. This is because of the amount

of nicotine and other chemicals are increased with e-cigarettes.

“Vaping is a very important health risk topic that teens and adults need to understand,” Wabaunsee Health Department administrator Janet Wertzberger said. “Although vaping may be recommended for some adults who already smoke and are trying to quit, it is by no means a healthy habit for someone who has never smoked.”

WHS also sent an email out to students’ parents, informing them of the expectations and school policy on vaping and tobacco use at school.

“It’s important to let kids and parents know this information, and to make sure they know we do care about their safety and well-being,” Hutley said.

EDITORIAL: SCHOOL CAN ADDRESS VAPING ISSUE WITHOUT PUNISHING ALL STUDENTS

Vaping is increasingly becoming a problem at WHS.

It’s no secret that certain students abuse their privileges and freedoms during school hours, for example, vaping in bathrooms and locker rooms. We recognize the school’s reasoning and understand that vaping is an issue, and the problem at school has decreased after principal Jan Hutley outlined the consequences in class meetings.

While we agree that WHS should work to prevent vaping, we don’t agree with the way it has been handled during AB.

Most of the problems of vaping along with students not checking

in with teachers has occurred during advisor base. AB is supposed to be a time to make teachers available to students for extra help. It’s also the time set aside for extra things such as club meetings, ZAP or school assemblies. In a sense, it is the student’s time to get caught up academically and participate in a number of other activities throughout the school.

With the new problems, recent restrictions on traveling to different classrooms during AB have caused an uproar in the student body. Students now have to obtain a signed pass from the teacher they wish to visit prior to AB and have it signed by their teacher. This creates difficulty because after running around the school to get a pass and talk to teachers it leaves very little time to actually

work on our homework. Teachers also have little time to talk to us for help when they are continuously filling out the passes and answering phone calls from students who wish to travel to their classroom.

A better way to go about this situation would be to enforce the QR code sign-out sheet that we already have implemented. This method was only faulty because it wasn’t being enforced by certain AB teachers. If problems with students still arise during AB, a good way to handle it would simply be to take the specific person’s AB rights away, rather than the entire student body.

The editorial is the opinion of the Charger staff. Send letters to the editor to whscharger@gmail.com.

READY FOR ACTION

Cast:

Maddie Alderman
Kinsey Steuwe
Logan Brown
Travis McCall
Reagan Kelley
Connor Brown
Tanner Imthurn
Stanley Russo
Dillon Spellman
Austin Henderson
Bobby Whitsell
Gabby Simmons
Emma Frey
Brendan Dugger
Lily Ogden
Justice Houston
Jayna Keller
Hunter Johnson
Emma Alderman
Karlee Swenson



Dillon Spellman and Maddie Alderman rehearse for the fall play during drama class. The fall play is on December 1.

Drama rehearses for fall play

Kendyl Bolinder
@BolinderKendyl

The drama class is preparing for its fall play, *Closed for the Holidays*, 7 p.m. December 1 in the high school auditorium.

Written by Flip Kobler and Cindy Marcus, the play follows travelers caught in the turmoil of a snowstorm. Stranded at a local community center, everyone from a teacher with a bus full of students to a Sheriff eager for criminal action is going to need a miracle to have a happy holiday.

Senior Travis McCall is taking on the role of Nolan, the fiancé of

a woman who becomes hysterical around the holidays.

“This is a good character for me, because I’ve seen and dealt with crazy women,” McCall said.

Junior Brendan Dugger plays a mysterious man who is secretly an elf working for Santa.

“This character is good for me because I get to be kind of rude, which is always fun. I’ve only been in Drama for one year and am preparing by spending time everyday reading my lines.

“It’s always stressful in the last couple of weeks,” director Brendan Praeger said.

Tickets for the performance are \$5 for adults and \$3 for students.

Oliver signs with Washburn; Stuewe signs with Allen County

OLIVER SIGNS TO PLAY BASKETBALL AT WASHBURN

Emma Frey
@_emmafrey_

Senior Abby Oliver signed to Washburn University to continue her basketball career Monday.

The signing was held in the commons and had a large turn out, including elementary classes Oliver has worked with through career and community connections.

Principal Jan Hutley and basketball coach Shana Perine both spoke at the signing. “I’ve had the privilege of watching her compete since she was very small in a variety of sports,” Hutley said, “and though she is multitalented, good at every sport she’s ever participated in, I have to say there’s a special place in my heart watching her play basketball.”

“She’s absolutely a great leader, she means well, she wants her team to do their best and you can see that on the floor. When she is on the floor our team is better,” Perine said.

Oliver’s father, Jason Oliver, also spoke on her accomplishments. “Her mom and I are extremely proud of all the hours Abby’s put in, it’s awesome for her.”

Oliver has an impressive high

school sports career, including cross country, tennis, volleyball, basketball, and softball, making the decision a difficult one. “It was a really hard decision to choose between softball and basketball, since I had put so much time and work into both, but basketball has also been slightly the favorite,” Oliver said, “I love how the game is so fast paced, and you’re always moving and having to read the situations in front of you.”

Oliver also had other schools reach out to her. “I had some other schools show interest, especially at some of the larger AAU tournaments Madelyn (Hutley) and I played in over the summer.” Oliver said, although she ultimately landed on Washburn. “The coaches and program at Washburn were a really good fit for me. I also felt at home in the atmosphere of the school and how it is a “small community” feel. Being so close to home was just a big plus.”

Oliver plans to take lessons she learned in high school with her to college. “I think a big lesson that WHS sports have shown everyone and continue to show is the off-season work that you put in really makes the difference. My coaches here have also always pushed me and my teammates to our fullest potential.”



Left: Senior Kinsey Stuewe signs to play softball at Allen County with her parents Jeff and Deb Stuewe. “I really liked what they had to offer,” Kinsey said. Photo by Emma Frey. Right: Senior Abby Oliver signs to play basketball at Washburn with her parents Kelly and Jason Oliver. “The coaches and program at Washburn were a really good fit for me. I also felt at home in the atmosphere of the school and how it is a small community feel,” Abby said. Photo by Laurel Barber.

STUEWE SIGNS TO PLAY SOFTBALL AT ALLEN COUNTY

Senior Kinsey Stuewe signed to Allen County Community College to continue her softball career at a signing ceremony Thursday.

Principal Jan Hutley spoke about Stuewe’s leadership. “I want to say how proud I am, in such a small school as we have, to have so many kids have the potential to go on and play college sports,” Hutley said. “I’ve seen her play softball, and that’s amazing, but I am more impressed with the kind of person that Allen County is getting. They don’t come better than Kinsey Stuewe.”

“I’m fond of small schools,”

Stuewe’s father, former principal Jeff Stuewe said, “because of all the things you get involved in and all the opportunities that it presents. But you don’t get there without support.”

Stuewe chose to go to Allen because she liked the coaches and the overall atmosphere of the school. “I really liked what they had to offer,” Stuewe said.

Stuewe has been involved in many clubs and extracurricular activities at Wabaunsee High School. She believes she can apply all of these experiences in college. “KAYs and FCCLA and then NHS always helps. SAFE and SADD I think will help me more once I get there, and

FCA will help me a lot when I’m there.” Stuewe said. She said KAYs and FCCLA helped her achieve her goals by increasing her public speaking skills. “I really wouldn’t know what to look for if I hadn’t been told while I was here.”

“She’s a good kid and a great softball player. She will be successful at the next level, because she is hardworking and motivated,” WHS softball coach Brian Henry said.

“I’m excited to meet new people and be able to be 18 and work out in the gym whenever I want,” Stuewe said, “and I’m excited to see where the rest of my class goes.”