

LICKING HEIGHTS LOCAL SCHOOLS

6539 Summit Rd. SW, Pataskala, OH 43062

p. (740) 927-6926 | f. (740) 927-9043

Feb., 6, 2019; 9:44 a.m.

Dear Families:

Our primary concern as a school district is the safety and well-being of our students and I am writing to provide an update about what occurred this morning and to dispel rumors.

On Wednesday morning, two LHHS students were reported to be feeling unwell prior to the start of the school day. They reported to the clinic with elevated vitals and said they had ingested an unknown substance. In response, EMS was called to further evaluate the students and they were transported to an area hospital. We are limited to the amount of information we can share to protect the health and anonymity of minors and this is currently an active investigation with the Pataskala Police Department; however, I can share the total number of students involved may include up to five.

We are grateful for our partnership with the Pataskala Police and the West Licking Joint Fire District, as well as, the cooperation of our school staff, safety officers and especially the high school administration for their swift response to this situation.

How can you help? Now is the time to have conversations with your children about the use of unknown and/or illegal substances. Please remind your students of the following safety tips:

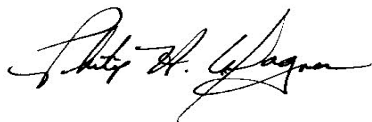
- If you see something, say something – please report any suspicious activity to a teacher or administrator.
- Don't do anything that makes you feel uncomfortable. Saying no is okay.
- Don't accept any food or drinks from someone you don't completely trust.
- Keep an eye out for your friends.
- Act responsibly. If you get caught doing something illegal (or you are with someone who is doing something illegal), you will have to face the consequences.

Finally, please click on the links below for two recent publications by the Prevention Action Alliance that provides guidance when talking with your child(ren) about alcohol, tobacco and other recreational drug usage:

- <https://preventionactionalliance.org/advocate/newsletters/know-whats-hidden-in-plain-sight-part-i/>
- <https://preventionactionalliance.org/advocate/newsletters/know-whats-hidden-in-plain-sight-part-ii/>

As always, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Philip H. Wagner, Ph.D.
Superintendent