



Notice to Parents and Guardians: Risks of Synthetic Drugs and Counterfeit Pills

(In accordance with California Education Code § 48985.5)

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The safety and well-being of our students is a top priority. We are providing this information to raise awareness about the serious dangers associated with the use of synthetic drugs that are not prescribed by a licensed physician, including fentanyl, and the increasing risks facing young people today.

Dangers of Synthetic Drugs

Synthetic drugs, such as fentanyl, are extremely powerful and can be deadly even in very small amounts. Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is significantly stronger than morphine and heroin. Illicitly manufactured fentanyl is often mixed with other substances, increasing the risk of accidental overdose. Individuals may be unaware they are consuming fentanyl, which greatly heightens the danger.

Counterfeit Pills

A growing concern is the presence of counterfeit pills designed to look like legitimate prescription medications, such as oxycodone, Percocet, or Xanax. These fake pills are often manufactured illegally and may contain fentanyl or other harmful substances. It is often impossible to distinguish counterfeit pills from authentic medications without specialized testing, making any non-prescribed pill extremely dangerous.

Role of Social Media

Social media platforms are increasingly being used as channels to market and sell synthetic drugs, including counterfeit pills containing fentanyl. These transactions can appear discreet and accessible, putting young people at greater risk of exposure. Students may encounter offers through direct messages, posts, or online groups.

What Parents and Guardians Can Do

- Talk openly with your child about the dangers of drug use and the risks associated with counterfeit pills.
- Encourage your child to only take medications prescribed directly to them by a licensed healthcare provider.
- Monitor your child's online activity and discuss the risks of interacting with unknown individuals on social media.
- Be aware of changes in behavior, mood, or physical health that could indicate substance use.
- Seek support from school staff or healthcare professionals if you have concerns.

Additional Resources

If you need more information or assistance, please contact your school or local health department. In case of a medical emergency or suspected overdose, call 911 immediately.

By working together, we can help protect our students from these serious and preventable dangers.

Sincerely,

Learning by Design Charter School