



New Lebanon
Junior/Senior
High School

October 27, 2016

Dear Families:

As Principal, student safety within the context of our school remains my utmost priority. As such, I am writing to notify you that during the school day I recently came into possession of a Ziploc bag containing both prescription and over the counter pills that could be found in the medicine chest of many of our homes.

It is not a secret that teenagers across the country have sought out prescription drugs and over the counter medications for their intoxicating effects when used in high doses. Unfortunately, these medications are often highly addictive and have the potential to be fatal when taken in large quantities or used in conjunction with one another. What is perhaps most alarming are national studies that suggest that nearly 40 percent of teens who have abused prescription medication have obtained drugs from their own parents' medicine cabinet. Pills have in many cases become the drug of choice simply because they are so readily available.

I recommend that families be especially vigilant when storing medications in the home. Be sure to dispose of prescription drugs that have expired and regularly take inventory of all medications to ensure that none have been removed.

Safe behavior is incorporated into many areas of our curricula, and we revisit the topic regularly when we speak with your children. Let us know if there are other specific ways that we at school can support your efforts at home to encourage your child to keep safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Matthew R. Klafehn, Principal
New Lebanon Jr/Sr High School



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