

Good afternoon Thurston Families,

As we count on the partnership that we have with families to help ensure student success, I want to share with you an incident that occurred earlier this week. Our administrative staff became aware of a group of students who had ingested a marijuana edible gummy that one member of the group had brought with them to school. One of the students experienced adverse effects of the controlled substance, which is how the incident was identified. School staff immediately contacted poison control, the parents of the student and our partners with the Springfield Police Department as we would in any circumstance involving prohibited substances.

While we believe this to be an isolated incident, it does provide us an opportunity to remind students and families that no students should be sharing or exchanging food items for many reasons including allergies, and food sensitivities as well as the increased availability of marijuana edibles. In addition to the obvious safety concerns around sharing food, it is also important to remind students that bringing and distributing prohibited substances such as alcohol, tobacco, or marijuana in any form will result in disciplinary and potentially criminal actions.

As school staff, creating a safe and welcoming environment for teaching and learning is our primary focus and incidents such as this can be dangerous and disruptive to that goal. It is because of this that we urge you to talk with your children about the importance of not accepting or exchanging food and the seriousness of bringing any prohibited substance to school.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our school community and should you have any additional questions or concerns please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kindly,

Brandi Starck, Principal
Thurston Middle School