

SCHOOL/LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP

Dear Parents and Community Members:

On behalf of the Marin County School/Law Enforcement Partnership, we would like to welcome you back to a new school year. There are many academic and extracurricular activities planned for this school year.

The Marin County School/Law Enforcement Partnership is a committee representing education, law enforcement, probation, Health and Human Services, community-based agencies, the District Attorney's Office, the Public Defender's Office and the PTA. Over the past four years the Marin County School/Law Enforcement Partnership has promoted and provided programs and activities designed to support safe and drug free schools and communities for all Marin County students and their families.

As the school year gets underway, the Marin County School/Law Enforcement Partnership again encourages students and parents to commit to making this be a safe, productive and memorable year. With this in mind, we are encouraging students and parents to take a few minutes to review, discuss and reflect on the following information supported and endorsed by all Marin County schools and law enforcement agencies.

- ❖ Local law enforcement will follow through with enforcement at non-school sponsored events or at private parties in the community. We encourage parents to always know the destination of their children. Parents should not allow underage alcohol consumption in their homes or knowingly ignore it in someone else's home. Adults can be held liable under laws intended to guard against underage drinking by teens.*
- ❖ It is the goal, intent and commitment of all Marin County schools and law enforcement agencies to support and provide safe and drug-free school-sponsored events.*
- ❖ Alcohol and other drug use will not be tolerated at school-related events. Students can and will receive school consequences such as suspension and/or expulsion for such behavior, as well as possible criminal prosecution.*
- ❖ Under California Law Penal Code Section 308b, it is now illegal for persons under the age of 18 years to purchase, receive or possess tobacco, cigarettes or cigarette paraphernalia. The punishment for the first offense is \$75 or 30 hours of community service.*
- ❖ It is crucial for parents to support alcohol-free activities. Many teens will say, "Everyone else is able to do it, why not me?" However, parents must understand that illegal and unsafe behavior is not a necessary part of adolescence. Parents should know the parents of their children's friends and get involved in planning safe and drug-free activities with their children. Parents can volunteer to participate in school activities or events.*
- ❖ Each of our middle schools and high schools offers substance abuse prevention counseling and collaborate with law enforcement and probation to provide support for students to stay clean and sober.*
- ❖ All Marin County high schools and law enforcement agencies are cooperating and collaborating with local hoteliers on a countywide calendar of "special" school activities to restrict hotel usage by underage guests. Marin County hotels do not solicit or desire patronage by high school students after dances or special events. Parents that reserve rooms for their children's use may be held liable for any damage sustained by the hotel and for the cost of law enforcement response.*

While the information being presented here is directed to high school students, please be aware middle school is also an important time for parents to discuss safe and healthy behaviors. We have attached tips for parents on teenage parties. Finally, please remember that school-sponsored dances and athletic events are opportunities for teens to have fun, be supervised and stay safe. Please join us to help all our kids have a safe, exciting school year.

Mary Jane Burke
Marin County Superintendent of Schools

Robert Doyle
Marin County Sheriff