

Mt. Carmel Middle School



Why Parent Corps?

Did you know?

- 40% of U.S. teens say they expect to use a drug in the future.
- 1 out of every 5 kids in 8th grade has already tried marijuana.
- 8th graders are 15% less likely to be carded for cigarette purchases than 12th graders.
- Abuse of inhalants by middle school children has increased by 44% over a 2 year period, but fewer youth & parents see it as a risk.
- Cutting/self-mutilation is a sign of sexual abuse.
- Adolescents are more vulnerable than any other age group to developing addictions because the regions of the brain that govern impulse and motivation are not fully formed.
- More than 1/4 of U.S. high school students report using alcohol before age 13.

Out of the mouths...

- I've only used Ecstasy a few times, but I loved it. It was amazing—I could bawl my eyes out, and be happy at the same time.

--Lori, fourteen

- Look at me—do I look like a druggie? I don't drink in the morning. I don't shoot up on heroin. I don't need drugs—I just love them.

--Frank, seventeen

More comments from kids...

- One night I was drinking and mixing drugs. I used crank (meth), Ecstasy, marijuana, and beer—lots of beer. I felt incredibly, amazingly good, I was really high. But then, oh, man, I can't even explain it, I was just off somewhere, tripping, and I felt sick and my heart was pounding, and I thought for sure I was gonna die.

--Kim, *fifteen*

- What can you say? It's just the best feeling in the whole world.

--Tania, *sixteen*

From a parent...

- *My smart, adorable, gentle son—where did he go? He started drinking at 14, and now it's as if some monstrous process has re-created him from the inside out, and it happened so fast. He doesn't care about school, sports, his old friends, the way he looks. He doesn't seem to care about anything. He's angry all the time and he can be very aggressive. I can't talk to him or reason with him. To be truthful, I'm scared of him. Can you tell me what happened?*

--Susan, thirty-nine

Who's Most Important? According to kids....

82%--Mom

63%--Dad

41%--Sibling

38%--Relative

38%--Teacher

25%--Sports Star

20%--TV Star

17%--Movie Star

Vocabulary Test

- **Pharming:** kids “getting high” using Rx or OTC drugs
- **Brown sugar:** heroin
- **Smarties/Kiddie Cocaine:** Rx Ritalin
- **White Cross:** meth
- **Adam:** Ecstasy
- *These are just a few of many...the list goes on.*

Tidbits

- Parents who set clear limits and also reward children for positive behavior protect them from drug use. On the other hand, parents who discipline their children inconsistently, or not at all, put them at high risk for drug use.
- Kids who are allowed to watch R-rated movies are more likely to smoke & drink than kids who have some restrictions. What parents do does make a difference.

Why do we need to increase parental involvement?

- Only **32%** of teens “learn a lot about the risk of drugs” from their parents.
- Kids who learn a lot about the risk of drugs from their parents are up to $\frac{1}{2}$ as likely to use.

Methods of Distribution

- **Hand commerce**

1. Use of cell phones, beepers/pagers increases range covered by dealers while also making getting caught harder.

- **E commerce**

1. Increases availability tremendously with mailing capabilities, etc.

Again...why Parent Corps?

Even though your child did not come with a manual, you can collect the tools & information necessary to influence your child to develop to their full potential in life.

This is where Parent Corps comes in. As a group we can work together to enlighten and educate each other.

Parent Corps will help you work through highly- charged issues as well as day to day matters by providing information .

Prevention is not only best—it is possible.

Parent Corps will be there to help you.

L.I.S.T.E.N.

- Learn
- Inspire
- Set Limits
- Teach Values
- Empathize
- Negotiate

Literally millions of words have been written on parenting, with hundreds of experts offering advice about how to best raise our children.

Life is too complicated and drug problems overlaid on the already difficult & challenging task of parenting an adolescent can create a hopeless muddle.

The acronym L.I.S.T.E.N. can help you remember the most important lessons about raising children.

Will you take the pledge?

- I promise to uphold the alcohol, tobacco, and drug laws of my country, state, city/town or county. I will do everything I can to prevent children from using drugs, to help those who have started stop, and to help those who can't stop, because they have become addicted, recover. As a member of the Parent Corps, I will join other parents to make our homes, our schools, and our communities places where children can grow up free of alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drugs, healthy, and capable of reaching their full potential.

Your signature

Membership

- If you share the desire to help our youth overcome the dangers that society and our own community is throwing at them, please take the time to sign the pledge.
- Be sure to leave your completed form in order for it to be processed.

MCMS Parent Corps

- Laminated membership card
- Monthly newsletters
- Updates as they occur
- Presentations with guest speakers based on concerns illuminated by members
- Articles & information always available through Parent Corps in Resource Center
- On-going strong peer support network

MCMS Parent Corps

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Thank you!

Thank you for taking the time tonight to focus on your child's healthy future.

Someday, your child will thank you as well.