



# Menasha School District Parent Corps Newsletter

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APRIL 2006

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## A Message for Parents Teen Parties and Alcohol Don't Mix

Many high school students view prom or graduation as a rite of passage into an adult world in which alcohol and celebrations go hand in hand. Some parents support this belief by hosting prom or graduation parties that include their child's friends where alcohol is provided.

Adults providing alcohol to underage youth sends a mixed message and can only add to a teenager's confusion about the acceptability of drinking. This also sends the message to teens that they do not have to obey the law. It is illegal, unsafe, and unhealthy for anyone under age 21 to drink alcohol.

Underage drinking parties are a health and safety problem with serious legal ramifications. **"Parents Who Host, Lose The Most: Don't be a party to teenage drinking".**

Here are the facts:

- Parents who give alcohol to their teen's friends under any circumstances, even in their own homes, are breaking the law.
- Parents who knowingly allow a person under 21 to remain in their home or on their property while consuming or possessing alcoholic beverages can be prosecuted and everything associated with such a violation can be confiscated, including personal property.

Parents can be sued if they give alcohol to anyone under 21 and they in turn hurt someone, hurt themselves or damage property.

Parents can protect themselves and their teens by following these guidelines when hosting parties for their children:

- Host safe, alcohol-free activities and events for youth during prom and graduation season
- Refuse to supply alcohol to children or allow drinking in your home or on your property

## The Statistics on Underage Drinking

An overwhelming number of Americans (96%) are concerned about underage drinking: and a majority support measures that would help reduce teen drinking, such as stricter controls on alcohol sales, advertising, and promotion.

*(Source: Wage-narr AC, Harwood E, Bernat D. 2002. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation 2001. Youth Access to*

*Alcohol Survey: Summary Report. Minneapolis: University of*

*Minnesota, Alcohol Epidemiology Program.)*

- Studies reveal that alcohol consumption by adolescents results in brain damage—possibly permanent—and impairs intellectual development.

*(Source: Alcoholism: Clini-*

### UPCOMING PARENT CORPS

#### ACTIVITIES

-APRIL 18, 2006 EVERY 15 MINUTES PARENT MEETING AT MHS AUDITORIUM AT 6:00 PM.

INTRODUCING PARENTS WHO HOST LOSE THE MOST: DON'T BE A PARTY TO TEENAGE DRINKING

APRIL 24, 2006—PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING IN THE BLUE JAY STUDY HALL AT 6:00 PM

APRIL 24-28, 2006—MENASHA CITY WIDE PARENTS WHO HOST LOSE THE MOST WEEK

MAY 2, 2006—PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES AT 3:15 PM IN THE MHS FIELD HOUSE

JUNE 1, 2006—COMMENCEMENT IN THE MHS FIELD HOUSE—CONGRATULATIONS!! CLASS OF 2006

JULY 15, 2006—EMERGENCY SERVICES NIGHT AT THE TIMBERRATTLERS. PARENT CORPS WILL BE PRESENT HANDING OUT INFORMATION AND WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PARENT CORPS AND YOUTH CORPS PLEDGE SIGN-UPS

-SUMMER 2006: THOSE WHO ARE MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE EMAIL UPDATES. IF YOU ARE NOT A MEMBER, YOU CAN STILL BECOME ONE BY SIGNING THE PARENT CORPS PLEDGE AVAILABLE AT ALL MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES, OR YOU CAN GO TO:

[HTTP://WWW.PARENTCORPS.ORG/WI/DDANIELS/](http://www.parentcorps.org/wi/ddaniels/)

YOU CAN FIND OUT THE DETAILS TO ALL THE PARENT CORPS ACTIVITIES AT MENASHA HIGH BY VISITING OUR WEBSITE.

## The Statistics on Underage Drinking (Continued from Page 1)

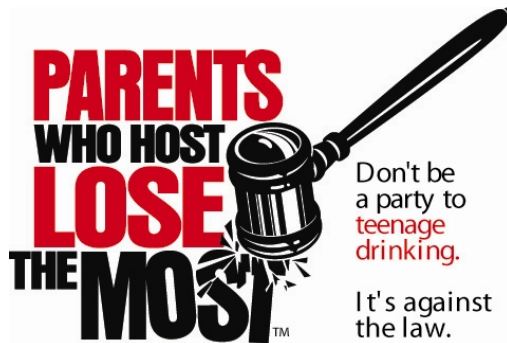
*cal and Experimental Research (Volume 24, Number 2*

*National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, February 2000)*

- Illegal alcohol consumption by underage youth account for up to \$22 billion a year in sales.

*(Source: Alcohol Consumption and Expenditures for Underage Drinking and Adult Excessive Drinking, National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse, Columbus University, published in JAMA, 2003)*

- The consequences of underage drinking are a tremendous expense



to the U.S. economy and total more than \$53 billion per year, by far the most costly of all drug problems.

*(Source: Institute of Medicine, Reducing Underage Drinking-A Collective Responsibility, September 2003)*

- Adolescents drink less and have fewer alcohol-related problems when their parents discipline them consistently and set clear expectations.

*(Source: Hawkins JD, Graham JW, Maguin E, et al. 1997 Exploring the effects of age of alcohol use initiation and psychosocial risk factors on subsequent alcohol misuse. Journal of Studies on Alcohol. 58(3): 280-290)*

*If drinking is delayed until age 21, a child's risk of serious alcohol problems is decreased by 70 percent.*

## Statistics on Underage Drinking

*(Source: Calculated from information contained in: Grant BF, Dawson DA. 1997, Age at onset of alcohol use and*

*its association with DSM-IV alcohol abuse and dependence. Results from the National Longitudinal Alcohol Epidemiologic Survey. Journal of Substance Abuse 9:103-110.)*

***If drinking is delayed until age 21, a child's risk of serious alcohol problems is decreased by 70 percent.***

## When Parents are Away From Home or Out of Town

So what do we do as parents to prevent our children from drinking alcohol before age 21.

- Set and communicate rules and standards to be followed in your absence.
- Do not allow underage youth to have unsupervised parties or gatherings.
- Remind them of their responsibili-

ties and the consequences of their actions.

- Have a relative or responsible adult stay at your home during your absence, have your teenager stay with a responsible adult or ask a neighbor to watch the house and stop in while you are gone.
- If you are concerned that your child might have a party anyway, you can call your local police and

ask them to drive by at some point over the time you are gone. Make it a point to tell your child that you have asked the police to do this.

- Find a babysitter for the young ones rather than bring them into the bar with you. Remember, our children learn from our behaviors more than from the behaviors of others.

## If Your Teen is Attending A Party

There are many things parents can do when they know their teen is attending a party.

- Know where your child will be. Call the parent in charge to verify the occasion and location of the party and ensure there will be adult supervision.
- Ask how many teens are expected at the party and offer to help supervise or provide refreshments.
- Make certain that the host will not be serving or allowing alcohol. Ask how they plan to handle the situation if a teen shows up with alcohol or having drunk somewhere else.
- Indicate your expectations to your child and the parent hosting the party that if the teens plan to leave and go somewhere else, you will want to know.
- Set a curfew for your teen to be home and when they arrive home, have them check in with you.
- Know how your child is getting to and from the party. Reinforce the message to your teenager that they should never allow someone who has been drinking or using other drugs to drive them anywhere.
- Assure your child that they can telephone you to be picked up whenever needed.
- If the activity seems inappropriate, express concern and keep your child home.
- Join or Start a Parent Peer Group at Menasha High School. It is easy. Make a list of your teen's closest friends and contact their parents for a meeting. Then, contact Donna Daniels at (920) 830-9425, or send an email to [donna.daniels@parentcorps.org](mailto:donna.daniels@parentcorps.org) to set up an organizational meeting.
- Sign the Parent Corps Pledge supporting our efforts to raise healthy, drug and alcohol free teens in our school

## Parent Corps Update

The Parent Corps in Menasha High School provided many opportunities for parents to meet and learn the current information available on keeping their teen's drug free. We will be continuing our efforts during the summer and are planning some major educational events for parents for the 2006/2007 school year. But, first you have to join the Parent Corps to receive important updates and receive newsletters.

Anyone can join the Parent Corps. Ask Donna Daniels, Parent Leader at Menasha High School for a pledge sheet. Or, stop by at the table in front of the Field House during Parent/Teacher Conferences.

At the Parent Corps table, every parent can sign a pledge and pick up valuable information regarding drugs and alcohol that affect all youth regardless of family upbringing. Copies of this newsletter

and brochures created during the school year will be available.

Or, you can visit the Menasha High School Parent Corps site at <http://www.parentcorps.org/WI/ddaniels/>

Parent/Teacher conferences are May 2, 2006 at 3:15 PM in the Field House. Come and meet your child's teachers to learn what they have done this year.

## Menasha High School Parent Opportunities

Donna Daniels, Parent Leader at the Menasha High School, is looking for a few excited parents who want to work on eliminating the alcohol and drug use among our high school students. There are many ways you can help. Below are just a few areas:

1. Start a peer group
2. Help organize larger meetings
3. Help with writing the monthly newsletter
4. Make treats for meetings
5. Make phone calls to five of your

friends and invite them to a Parent Corps meeting

6. Help get parents and students to sign the Parent Corps and Youth Corps pledge at conferences, games, concerts and special events.
7. Become an assistant Parent Leader at Menasha High School.
8. Host alcohol and drug free activities for teens in your home.

Please call Donna Daniels at (920) 830-9425 or send an email: [donna.daniels@parentcorps.org](mailto:donna.daniels@parentcorps.org).

