



April 12, 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Spring is an exciting time of year with prom, graduation and many end-of-the-school-year celebrations! With these events just around the corner, we would like to remind you of the important role you play in ensuring that your teen has a safe and memorable experience – without the use of alcohol.

Did you know that **82%** of Sherburne County high school students **do not** drink alcohol in a typical month (2016 Minnesota Student Survey)? Most students are making the responsible decision not to drink alcohol. Help the many students who don't drink feel confident in their choice not to by sharing your support of alcohol-free celebrations.

What can you do to help reduce underage alcohol use?

- **Talk with your teen about issues involving alcohol.** Your child may act like your opinion doesn't matter, but the truth is, you are the number one influence in your child's life. Talk early and often about the risks and consequences of underage drinking. Set clear rules against drinking and consistently enforce those rules.
- **Refuse to supply alcohol to underage youth.** Never buy alcohol for anyone under 21 or you could be facing up to one year in jail and/or a \$3,000 fine. Do not allow your teen to have parties with alcohol on your property or you could be facing up to 90 days in jail and/or a \$1,000 fine—whether you're present or not.
- **Provide safe alternatives.** Plan chaperoned alcohol-free parties for your teen and their friends during this time of celebrations. When your child is invited to a party, let them know you're available to get them out of a situation where other teens are drinking.
- **Be a role model.** Set a good example with your own alcohol use and response to underage drinking. Talk with other parents to ensure they are modeling the same behavior.

Prom and Graduation Night Tips for Parents:

- Review your child's plan with them for the evening, and tell them to check in with you periodically.
- Store alcohol in a secure location where kids don't have access.
- Know who is driving. Encourage seatbelt use – the best accessory!
- Do not rent hotel rooms for your child or allow them to stay overnight in one.

We look forward to these exciting spring events and want to make sure all of our students are safe as they create these special memories.

Sincerely,

Principal

Police Chief

County Attorney

Health & Human Services Director

County Sheriff