

West County Coalition for Alcohol and Drug-Free Youth

Office located at: Sebastopol Police Department

6850 Laguna Park Way, Sebastopol, CA 95472

Phone: (707) 829-4400 Fax (707) 829-0967

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Dear Parents:

The purpose of this letter is to share important information about an issue of concern for our students, our schools, and our community and invite you to take action. Teen alcohol use is a problem in West Sonoma County. In the recent *California Healthy Kids Survey*, west county teens report frequent high-risk consumption of alcohol.

Teen drinking leads to many serious problems including accidents, injuries and alcohol poisoning, learning and behavior problems, and problems with friends, school and work. Recent research indicates that teen drinking has a significant impact on brain development, and those who consume alcohol at a young age have a higher risk of becoming addicted to alcohol later in life.

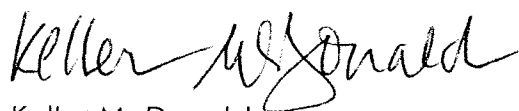
The West County Coalition for Alcohol and Drug-Free Youth is a group of west county parents, educators, law enforcement officers, health professionals, and other community members committed to reducing the problems associated with teen use of alcohol.

The West County Coalition for Alcohol and Drug-Free Youth suggests you join a supportive network of other parents across the community in creating a healthy and safe environment for West Sonoma County youth, by discussing the issue of alcohol use with your teen, and signing the annual Parent/Community Pledge (attached and made available in hard copy at your youth's school).

More about *The West County Coalition for Alcohol and Drug-Free Youth* and information that may be helpful in discussing the issue of alcohol use with your teen may be found on the back of this letter.

After signing the Parent Pledge, you may return the pledge to your student's school office or to Diane Davis, Coordinator of the West County Coalition for Alcohol and Drug-Free Youth (contact information on back).

Sincerely,



Keller McDonald
Superintendent

"The central mission of the West County Coalition for Alcohol and Drug-Free Youth is to create safe and healthy environments in which youth can thrive by preventing youth access to alcohol and other drugs."