



SHARON HIGH SCHOOL

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May 5, 2017

Greetings!

With Junior Prom scheduled to take place tomorrow night at Blue Hills Country Club in Canton, as well as other dances coming up such as the Freshmen Fling (SHS Cafeteria) on May 20th and Senior Prom (Granite Links in Quincy) on May 31st, I write to address an important issue and to share some resources that may be helpful to you.

For reasons that I can't fully explain, memorable evenings such as those mentioned above tend to be ones that are too often marred by stories of alcohol and/or substance abuse. Regardless of the town or high school, unfortunate things can happen at these kinds of events, or even long after everyone has dispersed for the evening. At SHS, our students have been historically great about respecting expectations at school events and are aware that faculty chaperones are attentive to potential issues and equipped to use breathalyzers or call upon the assistance of local police. Problems have come up, however, after our events.

Earlier this school year following the Sophomore Semi, I was informed that the Sharon Police and Fire Departments were called to a private after-party to attend to one of our students. Last spring, the same happened in the time between the end of the Senior Prom and beginning of the After-Prom event hosted by the PTSO. Fortunately, the students involved in both cases received the medical attention they needed and a tragedy was avoided.

It's unfortunate that the impetus for this letter comes from the circumstances mentioned above. It's also probably long overdue that I send home a communication like this because I'm sure there are similar occurrences on random weekends of which I have no knowledge. This conduct happens in spite of class lessons, school assemblies, youth-risk surveys, and other resources that the school department, families, and many caring individuals from our community put forward to keep our youth safe and informed.

All that said, a reminder about the dangers of alcohol and substance abuse, especially as it relates to house parties, binge drinking, and impaired driving of any kind, is never a bad thing. So with this letter, I share below a couple of linked resources that may be helpful as you speak with your child about good decision-making and reinforce your standards for behavior on the weekends, in your home, following events like those named above, and in other settings.

- **Massachusetts Social Host Liability/Responsibility Law** – Enacted in August of 2000
<http://www.mass.gov/essexda/docs/publications/alcohol-and-drugs/social-host-tagged.pdf>
- **Teen Safe** – Center for Adolescent Substance Abuse Research at Boston Children's Hospital (*click FAQs*)
<http://teen-safe.org/faq/>

Thanks for your time and attention to this letter. I'm looking forward to attending these special events, to ensuring great memories, and to celebrating the end of another successful school year!

Sincerely and with everyone's safety and well-being in mind,

Jose Libano

Jose Libano, Ed.D.
Principal

VISION, MISSION, AND CORE VALUES

SHARON HIGH SCHOOL STRIVES TO BE A RESPECTFUL, CARING, DYNAMIC, AND INSPIRATIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITY.
WE OFFER OUR STUDENTS THE ACADEMIC, CIVIC, AND SOCIAL TOOLS TO BE INFORMED, THOUGHTFUL, AND EFFECTIVE CONTRIBUTORS TO A GLOBALLY CONNECTED WORLD.
PERSEVERANCE ~ **R**ESPONSIBILITY ~ **I**NTEGRITY ~ **D**EDICATION ~ **E**XCELLENCE

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