

# PROJECTALERT

Dear Parent/Guardian:

We will be starting a program called Project ALERT in your son/daughter's class. Project ALERT is an age-appropriate substance abuse prevention curriculum proven effective in reducing experimentation among teens, and in reducing usage among teens who experiment.

Project ALERT will be implemented by a Townhall II AoD Prevention Specialist. The program is **free** to all Portage County Schools through the Mental Health and Recovery Board.

Project ALERT contains ten lessons that focus on alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, inhalants, and prescription drugs - those substances that are the first and most widely used by young people today. Project ALERT's focus is on motivating non-use, understanding the consequences of using, learning to recognize pressures to use, and on developing and practicing skills to resist these pressures.

Our school district is committed to providing the most effective approaches to preventing the use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in our schools and communities. We know that prevention of drug use and abuse is most effective when it is a partnership between the community, the home and the school.

According to a nationwide survey released by the Partnership for a Drug-Free America, youth who learn about the risks of drugs at home from their parents are much less likely to use drugs than those who do not. However, getting the message across is not easy. According to the Partnership's survey, virtually all parents (98%) reported talking to their kids at some point about drugs, but just 68% of the kids remembered the conversation, and only 27% reported learning a lot at home on the issue of drug use. Here is where the structured home learning opportunities within Project ALERT can help to focus discussion between you and your kids.

Your child will be bringing home handouts and activities that they receive throughout the program. It is important to discuss what your child has learned during the program with them in order to continue encouragement to not use. These handouts and activities provide you an opportunity to communicate with your child about these important issues. If you have any concerns about the program please contact one of the AoD prevention specialists at Townhall II.

Sincerely,

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For more information about the program visit [www.ProjectALERT.com](http://www.ProjectALERT.com)