

HIGHLAND COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5

HIGHLAND HIGH SCHOOL – 12760 TROXLER AVENUE – HIGHLAND, ILLINOIS 62249

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April 1, 2019

Dear HHS Parents and Families,

“In 2016, more than **1 million drivers were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol or narcotics**” (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2018). “**Cell phone use while driving leads to 1.6 million crashes** annually (National Safety Council, 2018). These shocking statistics suggest the importance of educating students about the dangers of making poor decisions (using alcohol or drugs, or texting while driving).

We have joined forces with local EMS, fire, police and area services to create a Mock Crash on Thursday, April 25 at 9:00 am. If necessary, a rain date has been scheduled for the morning of April 26. In previous years, only 11th and 12th grade students have viewed the event. **This year, we are opening the event to ALL HHS students** as we believe it is important for all students to attend. The crash will be a re-enactment of the aftermath of a drinking-and-driving accident. Public safety professionals throughout the community and students will take part in this simulation of a student fatality.

We realize the Mock Crash is an emotional experience for our students. If you feel that the experience would not be in your child's best interest, please complete and return the form below by Tuesday, April 23. Those students will be assigned to a study hall during the event. If you have specific questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the school counselors, SRO, Chris Flake, or HHS Admin. We will provide time for students to see school counselors after the simulation. In addition, members of the Highland Ministerial Alliance have volunteered their services during and after the program.

This is an exciting time of year for students as we look forward to Prom (April 27), Honors Night (May 13), Baccalaureate (May 15) and Graduation (May 19). It is always our hope that our students make good choices so they can experience success in high school and beyond. Please talk with your son or daughter about making good decisions. Thank you for allowing us to be your partner as we work together to keep students safe during this celebratory season.

Educationally Yours,

Dr. Chris Becker
Principal

Please excuse my son/daughter _____ from the Mock Crash. I understand that he/she will be assigned to a study hall in the library during the event.

_____(parent signature and phone number _____)