

# FAIRFIELD LUDLOWE HIGH SCHOOL

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Mr. Greg C. Hatzis, Headmaster

October 28, 2014

Dear Parents and Guardians of 9<sup>th</sup> graders:

This letter is to invite you to what may be one of the most important events you will experience with your 9<sup>th</sup> grader at Fairfield Ludlowe High School. Our teens are frequently faced with the temptation and opportunity to engage in underage drinking. We all know the negative effects that can result from students engaging in this behavior, and we cannot ignore our duty to help the children of Fairfield understand the impact of risky behavior and drinking. A committed group of parents and high school educators have worked together to plan an event to help our mutual cause:

### **The Freshman Forum on Underage Drinking**

**Date: Thursday, November 13, 2014**

**Time: 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**

**Location: FLHS auditorium**

**Audience: All 9<sup>th</sup> grade students and parents**

This important night will provide critical information for both parents and students that should lead to healthy conversations and good decisions when students are faced with a barrage of peer pressure and other negative influences.

Are you aware of the Social Hosting Laws in Connecticut? You will hear a law enforcement official explain how adults are liable for teenage drinking – *whether you were aware the behavior was happening in your house or not!* Have you heard how drinking alcohol affects the adolescent brain in more impactful ways than the adult brain? You will hear a medical professional's perspective. Other speakers will share their personal stories that will strike home for many students and parents.

While we can't mandate attendance for an after-school event, we would if we could for this event! We strongly encourage you to attend the Freshman Forum with your child on November 13. In the spring of 2014, the Regional Youth/Adult Social Action Partnership (RYASAP) conducted a major survey of teens in Fairfield. While only 18% of 9<sup>th</sup> graders reported having consumed alcohol in the last thirty days, 53% of seniors reported they had. Early intervention is crucial. More importantly, these numbers have gone down over the last ten years. At a recent Board of Education meeting, RYASAP credited efforts like the **Freshmen Forum** for these improvements. See all the results of this comprehensive and enlightening survey at <http://www.ryasap.org/dataresearch/>.

Return the RSVP form at the bottom of this page to your child's homeroom teacher **by November 6**. Be sure to include the name and homeroom of the student as there will be a reward (free movie ticket) for the students in the homeroom with the best response/attendance. In addition, all students in attendance will receive extra credit toward their PE/Health grade.

Sincerely,

Greg C. Hatzis, Headmaster

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We will attend the Freshman Forum on Underage Drinking on November 13.

Student name \_\_\_\_\_ Homeroom \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) name \_\_\_\_\_

**RSVP BY NOVEMBER 6, 2014 – Return to homerooms**

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