

August 2011

Dear Rittman MS-HS Parent,

A new school year is upon us and we at Rittman are excited for the year ahead. In the next several months, students will have the opportunity to create many memories over the course of this school year. Rittman's revitalized Teen Institute, as well as the administration at Rittman Middle-High School and S.A.L.T. (community coalition = Stopping Addictions to Live Triumphantly), would like to make sure that all of these memories are positive ones. Therefore we are initiating the SAFE HOME PLEDGE.

This parent pledge encourages you to have a zero tolerance policy for your teen and his or her friends when it comes to the use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco. It also encourages communication between you and your adolescent, as well as between you and other parents, when it comes to social activities. The pledge states:

- > I pledge not to allow parties or gatherings in my home when there is no adult supervision.
- > I will not allow teenagers to use drugs, alcohol, or tobacco in my home, nor will I help minors to obtain any of these substances.
- > I welcome phone calls from other parents about the presence of their teenager in my home or at an activity I sponsor.
- > I promise not to permit a teenager whom I believe to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs to drive, and I further promise to contact his/her parents or the responsible adult.
- > I pledge to provide safe transportation for my teenager if he/she finds him/herself in a situation that is uncomfortable or threatening.
- > I promise to discuss this pledge with my teenager.

As you can see, this pledge empowers you as a parent. It gives you the opportunity to openly discuss the dangers of drugs and alcohol with your son or daughter. It is also a pact between you and your teenager, as well as between you and other parents, that will help keep Rittman students safe.

Attached you will find a copy of the pledge. We hope that you will sign it and return it to the Office as soon as possible. At the bottom of the pledge there is a place to indicate whether you would like your name included on the SAFE HOMES list. The concept of the SAFE

HOMES PLEDGE works best when parents agree to have their names and their phone numbers published as supporters of the pledge. This list of supporters will then be available to other Rittman families. Parents can consult the list of parents who signed the pledge, and then decide which gatherings their children should be permitted to attend. Also, by publishing your name, other parents will know that you welcome communication regarding any social gatherings that may be taking place at your residence.

We thank you for all of your efforts in keeping the students of Rittman Middle-High School safe. We hope that you will choose to be a SAFE HOMES family, and that you will choose to talk to your son or daughter about the dangers of drugs, alcohol and tobacco. Our students are about to have some of the most memorable experiences of their lives. Let's make them all good ones!

Sincerely,

Members of the S.A.L.T. Coalition

Administration of Rittman Middle-High School

# Rittman Middle-High School

## Safe Home Pledge

Rittman Middle-High School is committed to providing a drug, tobacco and alcohol free environment for our students, both on and off campus. Thus, we propose that parents sign this Safe Homes Pledge, stating that they will not knowingly sponsor activities where drugs, alcohol, or tobacco will be present. Although this pledge is not legally binding, its purpose is to help create a healthy environment for Rittman students and to facilitate open communication with and among parents.

- > *I pledge not to allow parties or gatherings in my home when there is no adult supervision.*
- > *I will not allow teenagers to use drugs, alcohol, or tobacco in my home, nor will I help minors to obtain any of these substances.*
- > *I welcome phone calls from other parents about the presence of their teenager in my home or at an activity I sponsor.*
- > *I promise not to permit a teenager whom I believe to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs to drive, and I further promise to contact his/her parents or the responsible adult.*
- > *I pledge to provide safe transportation for my teenager if he/she finds him/herself in a situation that is uncomfortable or threatening.*
- > *I promise to discuss this pledge with my teenager.*

PARENT NAME (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT NAME (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ GRADE \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ GRADE \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ GRADE \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER(S) \_\_\_\_\_

### **PLEASE CHECK ONLY ONE:**

For purposes of communication, I am willing to have my name and phone number shared with other Rittman Middle-High School families who signed this pledge.

I am willing to have my name shared, but not my phone number.

While I support the pledge, I prefer not to have my information shared with other Rittman families.

