

August, 2011

Parents of Woodson High School Students,

On behalf of the Woodson Safety and Wellness Committee, welcome to Woodson High School for the 2011-2011 school year!

The Woodson Safety and Wellness Committee is in place to proactively support our parents and students regarding alcohol and drug abuse and other safety concerns on our campus and in our community. We are committed to offering educational seminars and other helpful information to our parents and students on these critical issues.

The consequences for not engaging proactively on this topic are serious. Far too many students have lost their lives due to underage drinking or drug abuse. According to the Virginia Alcohol Laws, it is illegal for anyone under the age of 21 to possess any alcoholic beverage. It is also illegal for adults to allow (aid and abet) underage persons to possess or consume alcohol. This includes purchasing and/or providing the alcohol. These violations are Class 1 Misdemeanors and penalties upon conviction can include a \$2,500 fine per young person provided any alcoholic beverage, loss of the adult's driver's license for up to one year, and/or up to one year in jail. Teens lose their driver's license for up to a full year and incur a mandatory minimum \$500 fine (up to \$2500) for buying, consuming or possessing any alcoholic beverage. Virginia has a Zero Tolerance Law making driving under the influence of any amount of alcohol a serious criminal offense for drivers under age 21.

Our "Parent Pledge for Woodson High School" can be found on the back of this letter. This agreement can also be found on the PTSO website at woodsonptso.org. Hopefully, by now you have handed in your directory form and checked the Parent Pledge box to indicate your agreement to receive an asterisk next to your student's name in the Woodson PTSO Student Directory. If you have not done this and would like to participate please download the directory form at wtwoodsonptso.org and send it back to the school by September 13.

We are looking forward to working with you this school year in partnership to proactively address alcohol and drug abuse prevention and awareness at Woodson High School and in our community. We can certainly use additional parent volunteers to broaden the level of community involvement around these issues. Please feel free to contact us and join our efforts.

Jeff Yost
Woodson High School Principal

Donna Greer
PTSO President

Jennifer Lewis-Cooper
Woodson Community Coalition

Lori Taylor
Woodson Safety and Wellness

**Woodson High School
Safe and Drug Free Parent Pledge
2011-2012**

*** I am aware that underage drinking is a concern for Woodson High School and the surrounding community. I want to do my part in helping to make a difference...and hopefully save a life!**

*** I will not allow or enable underage youth (under 21) to use alcohol or illegal drugs in my home, on my property or at other gatherings I am hosting.**

*** I will actively chaperone socializing in my home. I welcome and encourage contact from other parents concerning social activities in my home.**

*** I want my home to be a safe gathering place for all students.**

This agreement is in no way meant to provide legal recourse. It indicates my concern and interest in maintaining the health and safety of the youth in our community.

Those parents/guardians who agree with the WTWHS PARENT PLEDGE will be noted in the student directory with an * next to their student's name.

If you have not completed your directory form, please download the form at wtwoodsonptsa.org and return to Woodson High School by September 13.

**Questions contact: Jennifer Lewis-Cooper, jalcooper@aol.com, or
Lori Taylor, davidnlori@cox.net**