



Information for Parents and Caregivers

*about the 2nd Act performance, **I'll Never Do That***

On *April 28, 2022 at 4:30pm* all 9th-12th grade students will be attending a play about substance use prevention presented by 2nd Act, a theater company of actors with lived experience. *I'll Never Do That* shows how substance use disorder is a family disease; affecting everyone. **The major focus of this presentation is how families cope with the effects of Substance Use Disorder.**

After the performance, the actors share their personal stories, followed by a talk back session with the students. Students will be encouraged to talk among themselves, with their teachers, and with you, about the issues raised. A resource list for teens and parents will be given to the teachers, who will distribute them to the students.

What you can do to follow-up with your student

You can play an active role in supporting your children through the teenage years when they or their friends may be experimenting with alcohol and other drugs. We would encourage you to use this program as an opportunity to have a conversation about alcohol and other drug use in our community. Think about a few issues you may want to discuss regarding alcohol and other drug use. For example, you might:

1. Ask about their impression of the program. What did they see? How did it make them feel?
2. Listen to what your child has to say and try to follow their lead. What did they find interesting about the presentation? What did they find troubling or surprising?
(Often students are most interested in the life experiences of the actors.)
3. Ask them if they identify with any of the characters or if anyone they know is like someone in the play.
4. Take time to discuss whether there is a history of addiction in the family. What are your boundaries around drinking and other drug use? Make sure they know they can come to you if they or someone they know is using and they need help. Continue to check in with them and make sure they know that you're not going to judge them. This doesn't mean there aren't consequences for use but understanding and support needs to be the focal point.
5. Discuss the Good Samaritan Act, or talk about Naloxone, getting picked up from a party if people are drinking and driving or having a "safe" word if they need help at a party.
6. If needed, remind your student that there are local resources in addition to those on the lists provided. Encourage them to contact a guidance counselor, psychologist, a teacher, a coach, a relative or a religious establishment for further support.

If you have any questions about the program or wish for your student not to participate, please let Gwendolyn Howard, the School Social Worker, know. She can be reached at ghoward@stmdphs.org or (216) 881-1689 ext. 369. Thank you!