

I am sure most of you have seen the logo: Davis Parents Do on the annual letter that goes out in the summer packet to every family with students in public secondary school in Davis. Yet, many parents may wonder, "What is Davis Parents Do?" You may be surprised to learn that this parent education committee, under the authority of the PTAs of every high school and junior high in Davis, meets monthly to plan and implement strategies to achieve our mission: *to educate parents and guardians of Davis teens about the realities of drug and alcohol use by our youth*. Each member of the committee feels great commitment and passion around this issue, because we acknowledge the destructive and dangerous reality that teen substance use is causing in the lives of teens and their families.

As you know, we have asked parents to make the following pledge:

- To host only alcohol-free, tobacco-free and drug-free parties for teens;
- To not allow teens to possess or consume alcohol, tobacco or other drugs in my home; and
- To discourage my teen(s) from attending unsupervised parties.

With the support of the City of Davis, Davis Police Department, and the Davis Joint Unified School Board, the Davis Joint Secondary PTA Parent Education Committee established a sub-committee to pursue various avenues to educate parents on this critical concern.

As a result, we have developed the following goals of the Davis Parents Do Committee for the 2011-12 school year:

- Every parent of secondary school students in Davis is asked to pledge every year;
- Davis Parents Do will publicize our website as a resource in and for our community;
- Davis Parents Do will provide regular and consistent information to parents through DJUSD/school monthly newsletters and listservs;
- Davis Parents Do will have representation at each secondary school to foster connection and conversation with the school as well as the broad dissemination of relevant information;
- Davis Parents Do will help DJUSD athletics programs to follow uniform drug/substance abuse policies;
- Davis Parents Do desires to reach as many parents of Davis youth as possible to educate them about the realities of substance use by teens.

We have been pleased with the increasing positive response of the parents in Davis to the pledge and website where the names on each pledge are listed. However, the administrations and counselors of the district and secondary schools continue to report that Davis has a major problem with teen substance use. We know that much more work needs to be done. We are planning to start a blog on our website, DavisParentsDo.org, for parents to share stories, questions, and resources so that more parents will connect and converse on this topic. Ideally, we would like to have a parent representative from every high school and junior high on the committee. Please consider joining our movement to keep our children safe from the harm of substance use by contacting your school's PTA representative or becoming a representative in the future.