

March 2008

BPPT
Botetourt
Prevention

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

The end of the school year is a very exciting and hectic time for parents of Juniors and Seniors. Prom decisions are being made and graduation parties are being planned. But with all this fun comes the danger of underage drinking and all the negative effects that could result, such as rape/assault, pregnancy, serious accidents, and even death (car crashes, drowning or suicide).

The Botetourt Prevention Planning Team (BPPT) wants to encourage you to help reduce the use of alcohol (and other drugs) among minors. As you enter into this season of fun and celebrations, we ask you to remember the following:

- Do not serve or allow alcohol at any party you are hosting
- Know where your child is attending a party; verify that there will be parental supervision and that it will be alcohol free
- Make it clear to your youth that you **DO NOT** approve of him/her drinking alcohol
- The legal drinking age is 21 – **no exceptions**
- A minor who consumes alcohol is violating the law and is risking his/her life as well as the lives of others
- An adult who provides alcohol to minors is subject to arrest and is risking that child's life

Please help protect your child's bright future by providing a safe, alcohol-free season of celebrations for your son or daughter.

Sincerely,

The Botetourt Prevention Planning Team

Sharon Coleman, Botetourt County Sheriff's Office

Sergeant Jeff Stritesky, Botetourt County Sheriff's Office

Lynn McDowell and Susan Rieves-Austin, Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare

Penny Backer, CSA Coordinator

Robyn Dobyms, Botetourt Resource Center

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Nancy Adams, School Nurse, Botetourt County Schools

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Leigh Martin, Botetourt County Department of Social Services

Pat Reymore, Student Assistance Coordinator, James River High School

John Busher, Assistant Superintendent

Alan Brenner, Principal, Lord Botetourt High School

Donna Henderson, Grandparent

Mary Ellen Barger, Botetourt County Recreation Department

PARENT/STUDENT CONTRACT

Between You and Your Teen

STUDENT PROMISE

Because it is illegal, I promise not to drink alcohol, particularly during the dangerous prom and graduation season. I commit myself to celebrating in a safe and healthy way. I pledge not to get in a car with someone who has been drinking alcohol. If I find myself in a situation where I feel unsafe or uncomfortable, I promise to call you, my parent or guardian, for a ride home. I commit to this pledge and recognize there are consequences for every decision I make.

Youth Signature

PARENT/GUARDIAN PROMISE

As your parent/guardian, I promise to make myself available to you during this season of celebration. I promise to provide a safe, alcohol free environment for you and your friends. You can count on me any time, day or night. I promise that I will agree to pick you up, no immediate questions asked. When we are safe at home, I pledge to respect you and listen to what has happened and help in any way I can.

Parent/Guardian Signature