

# BERNARDS TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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September 26, 2014

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I hope the school year has started off wonderfully for you and your children. The 2014-2015 school year is going to be a very busy one so I would like to try and keep you up to speed with periodic reminders of all the goings on. Please review each of the important informational items and reminders below.

- **PARCC Testing:** PARCC will be replacing the NJASK and the HSPA as New Jersey's new state assessment. Students in grades three to eleven will be involved in the testing. To view the district testing calendar, please click <http://goo.gl/UWZftZ>. Each school's individual detailed testing calendar for the PARCC test will be issued by the school through the Friday Folder on October 17<sup>th</sup>. Delayed openings will be necessary to facilitate the PARCC testing schedules at the middle and high schools. Outstanding parent resources (including sample tests) related to PARCC can be found on these two webpages: <http://www.state.nj.us/education/sca/parcc/> & <http://www.parconline.org/>. PARCC will be discussed during a presentation at the November 24, 2014 board meeting.
- **Student Use of Technology:** Please help us by speaking regularly to your children about the appropriate use of their technological devices and accounts; in particular, cell phones and their cameras, texting, social media pages and the like. Remember that once digital content is created and sent, it is essentially impossible to eliminate. Please remind your children to use technology responsibly because not doing so can lead to damaging and hurtful outcomes.
- **Controlled Dangerous Substances:** The children are all taught the dangers of drugs and alcohol. The schools are committed to this message. Our goal is to reinforce this message with a random canine drug sweep at Ridge High School at some point during the school year. For parents interested in commenting on the canine sweep, it will be discussed at one of the October board meetings. We also intend to have the district's new policy on voluntary random drug testing in place in the next calendar year. In addition, you can enroll in the Safe Homes Program. To understand and enroll in the Safe Homes Program please see the letter and pledge form at the end of this correspondence. Furthermore, Dr. Michael Bradley will present a program on Teen Substance Abuse on Wednesday, October 22 at 7PM at the Ridge High School Performing Arts Center. Finally, don't forget to check out the great resources on the Municipal Alliance webpage: <http://www.bernardsalliance.org/>.
- **Candidate's Night:** Meet the candidates vying for a three-year seat on the school board. Four people running for three seats will be speaking at the Ridge High School Performing Arts Center on Monday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at 7PM.
- **Be Ready for Fall and Winter:** Please be sure you are ready to receive important communications about topics such as weather related closings or delays and other important messages. Sign up for both school and district Friday Folder messages and Instant Alert messages – the links to enroll in these are on the district homepage [www.bernardsboe.com](http://www.bernardsboe.com). Did you know that September is National Preparedness Month? Check out this link, <http://www.ready.gov/september> and be prepared!

Thank you for your attention. I will be in touch again soon as new and important information becomes available to share. Have a great school year!

Sincerely,



## SAFE HOMES PROGRAM AtoZ DIRECTORY

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2014

Dear Parent or Guardian:

**SAFE HOMES PROGRAM** is a program of invaluable support for teenagers and their families which is a national initiative designed to coordinate pledges from local families who agree to host only supervised, drug and alcohol-**free** gatherings for teens at their homes.

Our community is coordinating this initiative with the support of the Bernards Township District Administration, Municipal Alliance, Police Department, and Somerset Safe Communities Coalition. We invite you to participate in the Safe Homes Program. The Safe Homes *Parent Pledge Form* details this potentially lifesaving program.

Once the signed Pledge Form has been returned, that data is then forwarded to Parents4SubstanceFreeKids and entered into the District online A-Z Directory. (P4SFK) is merely maintaining the Safe Homes AtoZ Directory in a clerical capacity to assist in the creation of this valuable tool for parents. Your participation in Safe Homes does not associate you with (P4SFK).

You will receive an email with instructions on how to access the online Directory. Your user ID will be emailed to you along with a temporary password.

For resources against substance abuse, please visit the Bernards Township Municipal Alliance website (<http://www.bernardsalliance.org>) and Somerset County Safe Communities Coalition website (<http://www.safecoalition.org>).

**Safe Homes Program** has tremendous support and success in other local communities. Please be sure to return the enclosed Pledge Form by mail on or before Oct. 15, 2014. Thank you for your anticipated support.

If you have any questions regarding the Safe Homes Program, please email [parents4substancefreekids@gmail.com](mailto:parents4substancefreekids@gmail.com).

Sincerely,

Safe Homes AtoZ Coordinators

# SAFE HOMES PARENT PLEDGE FORM

<u>STUDENT NAME(S)</u>	<u>SCHOOL NAME</u>	<u>GRADE</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

**SAFE HOMES** parents agree to a healthy atmosphere in which the use of alcohol and other drugs is no longer the “norm.” **SAFE HOMES** parents are taking a stand against the alarming increase in alcohol and drug use among our youth.

## PARENT PLEDGE

- *I will not serve, nor will I allow, youth under the legal drinking age of 21 to consume alcohol in my house or on my property.*
- *I will not allow parties and gatherings when I am not at home.*
- *I will not allow the use of illicit drugs at my home or on my property.*

### THE FOLLOWING FIELDS ARE REQUIRED FOR PARTICIPATION:

**PARENT NAME(S):** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL ADDRESS (REQUIRED):** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**HOME PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **CELL PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent Signature) (Date)

*Your signature indicates your consent to have your name, address and phone number(s) appear in a secure online directory. It also indicates that your best efforts will be made to implement the guidelines of SAFE HOMES. This is not a legally binding contract.*

**Please mail or fax this form to:**

**SAFE HOMES AtoZ DIRECTORY**  
c/o Ridge High School  
268 South Finley Avenue  
Basking Ridge NJ 07920

**Fax: 908-204-2582**