

# Ridge High School

268 SOUTH FINLEY AVENUE  
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**FRANCIS T. HOWLETT, JR.**

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*Assistant Principal*

**THOMAS THORP**

*Assistant Principal*

October 1, 2010

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Recently we have become aware of a growing problem with students attending football games under the influence of alcohol or other controlled dangerous substances. This information came to us from different sources including students, parents, counselors and law enforcement personnel. I am greatly concerned as there were some instances where young people could have suffered irreparable harm.

With this in mind we will be taking the following steps to ensure that we provide for the safety of our children and the protection of the community.

First, we wish to emphasize the seriousness of the problem and our intent to deal with it directly. That is the purpose of this letter to parents and we will also be communicating with the student body of our intent.

Secondly, members of the Bernards Township Police and a high school administrator will be stationed at each gate to observe any behaviors consistent with intoxicated individuals. Bernards Township Police officers will also traverse the parking lots and surrounding wooded areas.

Lastly, students suspected to be under the influence of a controlled dangerous substance using the reasonable suspicion application will be subject to the suspicion based policy (M5530) of the Bernards Township Board of Education. Police charges may also be filed.

It is not our intent to damage the reputations of our students but to protect them from the dangers of alcohol use. It is our hope to deter inappropriate behavior involving alcohol.

Sincerely,

Francis T. Howlett Jr.