

Dear Parents and Guardians,

During the week of *February 8th to 12th, 2010* we will be celebrating **Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week**. The theme for this week is “Choose Respect” and the message is “February is the month of love: We wish you healthy relationships this Valentine’s Day and everyday!”

Here are some facts about Teen Dating Abuse and Violence:

- Teen dating violence runs across race, gender, and socioeconomic lines.
- Females ages 16-24 are more vulnerable to intimate partner violence than any other age group – at a rate almost triple the national average.
- Approximately 1 in 5 female high school students report being physically and/or sexually abused by a dating partner.
- Intimate partner violence among adolescents is associated with increased risk of substance abuse, unhealthy weight control behaviors, sexual risk behaviors, pregnancy, and suicide.

We are planning several events during the week to present this information to the students and provide them with resources.

- On *Feb. 8th* during the Seminar period, all students will view a video titled “Dating and Violence Should Never Be A Couple.” They will also receive a handout that includes warning signs of abusive and violent dating relationship and a list of local and national hotline numbers.
- During the week, students will also be discussing this topic in their different classes and participating in lessons that incorporate this topic.
- The Student Council and T.C.C will be collecting loose change during the lunch periods to donate to the local domestic violence shelters in Montgomery and Christian Counties as part of our community outreach.
- To ramp up for the week and celebrate the commitment to respect one another, *Friday, February 5th* will be a jeans day. Students will also be able to wear jeans if they wear a *red or yellow shirt*, the theme colors for this week (student council t-shirts are also allowed that day with jeans). Red is the color for love and yellow is the color for friendship.
- The guidance and school psychology departments will also be reviewing the protocol for action on reported or suspected relational abuse or violence.

As a resource for parents, we have included a list of warning signs that your teen may be in a violent or abusive relationship and resources to contact for more information or assistance

WARNING SIGNS FOR PARENTS OF TEENS

- * Your son/daughter has stopped seeing friends and family members, and is becoming more and more isolated.
- * **Excessive** telephone calling can be a sign of an abusive relationship. Pay attention to that, especially if you notice much of the conversation is your teen justifying what they've been doing and with whom.
- * You know your teen's boyfriend or girlfriend has a temper, but when they're around you they're extraordinarily charming.
- * When your son/daughter and his/her girlfriend/boyfriend are together around you, you notice he/she calls her/him names and puts him/her down.
- * Your teen shows bullying behaviors, which could indicate they have the potential to be abusive in a dating relationship.
- * Your son/daughter constantly apologizes for his/her girlfriend's/boyfriend's behavior and makes excuses for her/him.
- * Your daughter's/son's boyfriend/girlfriend acts extremely jealous when others pay attention to her/him...especially when it's other guys/girls.
- * Since your teenager started dating this person, they have become increasingly insecure, destructive and angry.
- * Since he/she started seeing her/him, your son/daughter has suddenly become secretive and is acting out. (Teens naturally have some secretive behaviors since this is a period in life when they are trying to establish their identity. Parents should respect that, but pay attention to an increase in secretive or odd behaviors.)
- * You see constant bruises, notice other signs of injury, or damaged personal property, and your teenager's explanations seem out of place or don't make sense.

Support/Emergency Contact Numbers

MP's/Police: 911 emergency 798-2677 non-emergency

National Teen Dating Abuse Hotline: 1-866-331-9474

National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-7233

Chaplain CARE (24/7 crisis line) 270-798-CARE(2273)

Please do not hesitate to contact if you need more information!

-The Ft. Campbell Guidance & Psychology Department