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Dear Parent:

Prom and graduation season is here again. This is a time of celebration for young people, and we want the activities and gatherings to be fun and safe. It is our hope that parents will take the initiative to encourage our teens to make the responsible decision not to drink alcohol during this happy time of year.

“Lights on for Prom” - We care about our teens and want to encourage community members to leave the **“Lights on for Prom.”** Simply, leave your porch light on all night on prom night as a symbol to show that we want our youth to have fun at prom, but stay safe. Encourage your friends, neighbors and co-workers to also leave their porch light on so teens know we are united in showing them we want them to have the “night of their life” – one they will remember forever!

Other Prom Night Tips

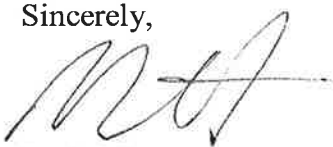
- Make sure your child has a plan for the evening, and that you know it.
- Do not rent hotel rooms for prom-goers.
- Insist on adult chaperones for all gatherings – call ahead to be certain.
- Make sure that alcohol will not be served to teens. It is illegal to make alcohol available to anyone under 21. You can be prosecuted if you do provide alcohol.
- Be sure seat belt use is mandatory – everybody, every seat, every time!

Prom and Graduation season is a particularly dangerous time for our youth. It is estimated that across our nation over 700 youth under the age of 21 will die in alcohol related crashes in this time period. Unfortunately, many teens obtain the alcohol they drink from family and friends. The good news, however, is that among 10 to 18 year olds, 65% cite parents as the leading influence for them not to drink. Parents should feel empowered to help their children make good choices during this exciting time. The tips noted above are just as important at graduation time, especially being sure that alcohol will not be served to those under the legal age at parties.

Creative and fun celebrations do not need to include alcohol.

We congratulate students and parents on making good decisions...decisions that we can live with! Enjoy every minute of the upcoming celebrations and work to create memories that will last a lifetime!

Sincerely,



Pat McDermott
Blue Earth County Attorney

Sincerely,



Jennifer Baumgartner
Principal, LCWM School

Sincerely,



Matt Gangelhoff
Resource Officer