

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #25 (2006-2007)

September 11, 2006

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: CHUGIAK HIGH SCHOOL'S *EVERY 15 MINUTES* PROGRAM

ASD Goal: *Maintaining a supportive and effective learning environment.*

PERTINENT FACTS:

The *Every 15 Minutes* program is designed to give students a real-life experience of the consequences of drinking and driving without the real-life risk. The program takes its name from the fact that in the early 1980's, every 15 minutes someone in the United States was killed in an alcohol-related traffic collision.

Chugiak High School's two day program kicked off April 18, 2006 with a dramatic reenactment of a fatal car crash caused by a student who had been drinking. The staged vehicle collision in the school's parking lot included emergency medical response, grieving family members and law enforcement arresting the student driver. The students involved in the crash were taken to the morgue, hospital, jail and courtroom respectively.

In the meantime, back at school, every 15 minutes, a student became a member of the "walking dead" unable to speak to other students or family members until the event culminated on day two.

The event wrapped up on the second day with an emotional student assembly consisting of a mock funeral service. Students watched a video of the events unfolding in the student parking lot, courthouse, hospital and prison. Assembly speakers included "walking dead" students reading letters to their parents about their mock death and parents reacting to the "loss" of their children, even only for one day.

The event, which took more than a year of planning, was spearheaded by School Resource Officer Wendi Shackelford and Chugiak High School teachers Leha

Uehling and Kathy Vik. King Career Center teacher, Teena Calkin, was the chairperson for the Media/Legal Committee.

Chugiak students Sam Brewer and Amanda Seal were a part of this committee. In addition to helping pull off the event, they spent several months of work sorting through hours of videotape from the *Every 15 Minutes* program. As the result of their work, the students created a 20 minute "story" of this event.

This video was presented by Officer Shackelford and CHS student Brittany Pickens at the National Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse conference in St. Louis, Missouri. Several students and staff from other states requested copies of the video to present at their respective schools to stage a similar event.

Chugiak's *Every 15 Minutes* program was detailed, dramatic, and emotional. The response to the program was overwhelmingly positive from students, staff, parents, and members of the community. Officer Shackelford has also received supportive comments from students who evaluated and changed their attitudes towards alcohol after being a part of the *Every 15 Minutes* program.

It is requested that the School Board recognize teachers Teena Calkin, Kathy Vik and Leha Uehling, students Sam Brewer, Amanda Seal and Brittany Pickens and SRO Wendi Shackelford for their hard work and dedication that led to an outstanding and effective event.

CC/ME/HE

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