

Dear HMS Parents:

Our community is safe and nurturing. Yet even in this quaint and beautiful community, tragedy can strike. Drugs and alcohol are powerful vices that can have devastating effects. Therefore, it is important to teach our students the importance of making responsible, appropriate, and legal decisions.

On Wednesday, May 18 at 6:45 p.m. in the HMS Auditorium, the Haddonfield Middle School PTA and Haddonfield Municipal Alliance will host a program for all district parents and adolescents called *Heads Up*. The emphasis of the *Heads Up* program is drug and alcohol prevention. The message of the program is powerful, and the police officers presenting the information do so in a truthful, frank, and candid manner.

Many students and parents in our district have already seen the *Heads Up* drug and alcohol prevention program. Several of the students have credited the program as being pivotal for them – a program that has served as a deterrent to making irresponsible choices. These students cite the messages and images of *Heads Up* as having a lasting and positive impact in their lives.

I urge parents to consider the benefits of this program for their families. Let me be clear: the images presented in the program are graphic and intense, and they clearly show in raw detail the dangerous results of drug and alcohol abuse. It is my belief that this program can serve as a platform for discussion for our children and their parents.

In addition to the May 18 presentation, *Heads Up* will be presented to HMS 8th graders as a school day assembly on June 8, 2011. I encourage parents to consider viewing the program on May 18 so they have an understanding of what their 8th grade student will see on June 8. Following the May 18 presentation, parents who wish for their children not to see the program are encouraged to contact me.

During this time of year, as we all anticipate transitions and summertime fun, it is important to be mindful of safety and responsibility. Parents and children who see this presentation will find the *Heads Up* program to be a clear reminder of the need to make healthy decisions. It is the hope that this can be a program that benefits our community by teaching our children to value themselves and to understand the impact of the choices they make.

Sincerely,

Noah Tennant