

Dear APS High School Families,

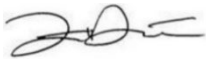
It's time to celebrate proms and graduation! This is a wonderful time for our students to celebrate all they have achieved. It is also a time when some teens choose to use alcohol and other drugs as part of celebrating. One bad decision can result in tragedy, not just for the young person, but for family members, friends, and our entire community.

We are asking for your help in making prom and graduation nights safe for all. Here are some tips before you start taking pictures and sending them on their way:

- Talk to your children. Make it clear that you do NOT approve of them drinking alcohol, even on this special occasion.
- Educate them about the risks associated with drinking, including alcohol poisoning, unwanted sexual advances, poor impulse control, risky choices, and legal consequences. Let them know that you want this to be a time they will remember without using alcohol or drugs.
- Do not serve or allow alcohol or drugs at any party you are hosting.
- Make sure your teen has a plan for the night, and you know what it is. Clarify your expectation that if the plan changes, you will be contacted immediately.
- Know where your teenager is attending a party and verify there will be parental supervision and that it will be alcohol-free.
- Do not rent hotel rooms for prom-goers.
- Know who is driving – several limousine companies provide a Prom Pledge that prohibits alcohol or drugs in the vehicle.
- Talk to your teenager's friends' parents. There are lots of ways to join together for these special evenings. Just be sure that a major part of the planning includes the expectation that no alcohol or drugs will be permitted.
- Remind your teenager that there are legal and school consequences for using drugs and alcohol at school-related events.
- Look for more information on hosting alcohol- and drug-free celebrations online; many local limousine companies offer the Prom Pledge to keep riders safe.

We look forward to this season of celebration and are committed to the safety and well-being of every student. Please help protect your student's future by providing a safe, alcohol-free season of celebrations!

Sincerely,



Dr. Francisco Durán, Superintendent



Kimberley Graves, Chief of School Support



Antonio Hall, Principal, Washington-Liberty High School



Dr. Kevin Clark, Principal, Yorktown High School



Chris Willmore, Principal, Wakefield High School



Dr. Barbara Kanninen, School Board Chair



Chip Bonar, Principal, Langston and New Directions




Casey Robinson, Principal, H-B Woodlawn



Barbara Thompson, Principal, Arlington Community High School



Margaret Chung, Principal, Arlington Career Center



Dr. George Hewan, Administrator, Shriver Program