

**Dear Ewing High School Community,**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**May 11, 2023**

**EWING TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT CONDUCTS EXTRICATION PROM  
EVENT AT EWING HIGH SCHOOL**

The Ewing Public Schools, in conjunction with Ewing Township Emergency Medical Services - Police, Fire, and EMS, and Capital Health Hopewell are taking a proactive step in educating local high school students about making mature decisions when alcoholic beverages and/or substances are involved.

Extrication Prom is a program that challenges high school seniors to think about driving, drug use, personal safety and the responsibility of making mature decisions when lives are involved. This event is to remind students and parents/guardians about how making the right choice behind the wheel can protect themselves and others from dangerous driving behaviors.

**Mock Crashes - Dramatic Reality Check**

The mock crash uses real crashed vehicles set up on school grounds and student participants to act out roles as crash victims. The Senior Class of 2023 will be watching the demonstration and learn how emergency responders conduct rescue efforts in real-time.

The mock crash event will take place for the Class of 2023 on **Tuesday, May 16, 2023 at 1pm**, and will be outside of the EHS gymnasium. Rain date is Wednesday, May 17, 2023 at 1pm. Ewing Township Police, Fire, and EMS will be at the building for the presentation.

We understand this may be an emotional event for students. Counselors and members of the district's Crisis Team will be available for students. If you **DO NOT** want your child to participate in this event, please sign the attached form and have your child return it to Ms. Tonelli in the counseling office by May 15, 2023. Paper copies of this form are also available in the Main Office and Counseling Office for your convenience.

We thank you in advance and appreciate your cooperation in this educational program for the Class of 2023! If you have any questions, comments, or concerns please feel free to email **[ktonelli@ewingboe.org](mailto:ktonelli@ewingboe.org)**.

## Information about the Program

### **Traffic Crashes - One of the Leading Cause of Teen Deaths**

Traffic crashes are one of the leading causes of death for New Jersey teens, due to inexperience, speeding, distractions and failure to yield. Each year, around 25 teens are killed, and nearly 3,000 are injured in crashes. Ewing Township PD is urging parents and guardians to reinforce teen driving laws and talk to their teen about the dangers and serious consequences of underage drinking, speeding, distracted driving, passenger limitations and not wearing a seatbelt.

### **Guide for Parents to Establish Safer Teen Drivers**

- Provide many hours of supervised practice and continue to do so even after licensure.
- Train your teen on a variety of road types (urban, rural) and in different conditions (night, rain, snow)
- Talk with your teens to reinforce laws and set limits (such as passenger limitations, nighttime driving) - and use a parent/teen driving contract to set clear rules and consequences.
- Encourage your teen to speak up when they feel unsafe in a vehicle driven by another teen to stop unsafe driving behaviors.
- Know where your teen is going, who they'll be with, and when they are expected to be home. Try to be available to pick up your child at any time or location if needed.

### **Underage Drinking**

Under New Jersey State Law (2C:33-15) it is illegal for a person under the age of 21 to purchase, consume or possess an alcoholic beverage in a motor vehicle, school, place of public assembly, public place or public conveyance. If caught, the individual can be charged with a disorderly person's offense. A disorderly person's offense is the term used in New Jersey for what is commonly called a misdemeanor in other states.

If the individual is under age 18, they will not be charged as an adult and will be required to face juvenile delinquency proceedings. In a case such as this, the court will have a hearing in order to determine whether or not the juvenile is to be adjudicated delinquent. Individuals over age 18 but under age 21 will face charges as an adult.

The penalties for a DWI can be harsh, including the suspension of the driver's license, hefty fines, potential jail, required attendance at alcohol educational programs, insurance surcharges and the possible placement of an ignition interlock system placed on the person's vehicle. For people under the age of 21 there is a zero tolerance standard. This means if there is any alcohol in their system they are violating the law and can be charged, not with a DWI but with having alcohol in their system while being underage.

If a driver under 21 registers a BAC of 0.01% to 0.079%, the driver's license will be suspended for 30 to 90 days, there will be 15 to 30 days of mandatory community service, required attendance at the Intoxicated Drivers Resource Center (IDRC), and fines and other surcharges. However, in almost every instance where the BAC reading is above a 0.04% a person will also be charged with Driving While Intoxicated. The police can try to prove a person is drunk even if they are below a 0.08% if the person is acting like they are under the influence and that conduct would affect their ability to drive a car. Young drinkers should by definition be inexperienced and may show the effects of alcohol more readily than an older person who may have had more experience with alcohol.

In the event that a young driver, under 21, is charged with DWI either because of their conduct in appearing to be under the influence or having a BAC of 0.08% to 0.099% the same penalties exist as set forth for a regular DWI for someone 21 or older. The driver is subject to up to 30 days in jail, a driver's license suspension for 3 months, IDRC participation for 12 to 48 hours, fines between \$250 and \$400, plus surcharges of \$3,000. If the BAC is 0.10% or higher or the charge related to drugs rather than alcohol, the sentencing will be in the "higher tier" DWI and the license suspension will be from 7 months to one year. A conviction in this case would result in up to 30 days in jail, a license suspension of 7 to 12 months, 12 to 48 hours at IDRC, fines between \$300 and \$500 and surcharges of \$3,000. These penalties discussed are assuming it is the underage drinker's first DWI conviction. If the reading is above a 0.15% the penalty is more severe and if they are a second or subsequent DWI offender the penalties are increased according to the second offense and third offense DWI schedules.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, **DO NOT** approve of my child,  
\_\_\_\_\_ participating in the Extrication Prom program being  
implemented by Ewing Emergency Services - Police, Fire, and EMS, and Ewing High School on  
Tuesday, May 16, 2023 at 1pm (rain date Wednesday, May 17, 2023 at 1pm) **I understand that  
by returning this form, my student WILL NOT be participating in this event.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**\*Please return this form to Ms. Tonelli (SAC) in the Counseling Office no later than May  
15, 2023.**