

“SAFE” IS A FOUR-LETTER WORD





Dear Parents and Students,

It is hard to believe that our 2015-2016 school year is coming to an end. What an exciting year this has been! Our 2016 graduating class includes more than 3,000 Gilbert Public School seniors who will head to college or into the workforce.

As our Class of 2016 prepares for finals, graduation celebrations, and summer farewell parties, it is important for us as parents and guardians to join together to ensure their safety. Students may experience a higher rate of stress at this time of year and can face greater peer pressure to drink or experiment with drugs. There can also be an increase in teen depression or a sense of disassociation as they are facing a time filled with change.

I would like to offer some guidance for our parents during this special time of year:

- Know your child's schedule for final exams, and check in with them before and after each day of testing.
- If your child has plans to celebrate with friends, know your child's plans for the whole evening, including who is driving, and set clear ground rules for how often your child has to check in with you via phone call, text, or other means.
- Talk to your son or daughter about your rules and the consequences for violating them.
- Let your son or daughter know that you will be available to pick them up if they don't feel safe, regardless of the circumstance.
- Let your son or daughter know that you will be waiting up for them.
- If you are hosting a party, set clear rules in advance. Some parents feel that it is inevitable that teens will drink and believe that this is better done under adult supervision. It is illegal. If something happens to any teen and alcohol is involved you will be held responsible.
- Talk to your child about how to stay safe at a party, including how to handle peer pressure.

This is an exciting time for our students and, most importantly, we want to keep them safe. At GPS we are proud to add to your student to our list of successful alumni.

Congratulations to all of you!

Sincerely,

Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto
Superintendent



YOUTH IS FLEETING

- Why is “safety” such a laughable subject for us, especially in our youth? Why do we bristle at the thought of having limitations placed on us?
- Perhaps we have bought into the idea that indulgence, done in a controlled environment, will help get sin “out of our system.” The hard truth, however, is that youth is fleeting — it is only the regrets that last a lifetime.
- Ecclesiastes 11:8–12:1 offers incredible insight into youth, and how easily it can be wasted.

**CAN I REALLY GET SIN
“OUT OF MY SYSTEM”?**

ISAIAH 56:11-12

A group of young people are gathered at a party, smiling and holding beer bottles. The scene is dimly lit, with warm, yellowish light from the background. The text "MIGHT AS WELL ASSUME THE WORST" is overlaid in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. The text is arranged in three lines: "MIGHT AS WELL" on the top line, "ASSUME THE" on the middle line, and "WORST" on the bottom line. The text is positioned on the right side of the image, partially overlapping the people.

**"MIGHT AS WELL
ASSUME THE
WORST"**

“RULES PRODUCE REBELS”

- One of our great fears as parents is that our rules might only alienate us from our children. In the short-term it seems more appealing to give in to their demands, but we might be sacrificing more than we know!
- There are a number of practical applications that prove to be all-too-real for many parents.
- It is not the rules themselves that produce rebellion (Proverbs 22:6, Ephesians 6:4) but HOW those rules are applied, and with what attitude (Colossians 3:20–21).