

Dear Roland Park Country School Middle and Upper School Parents,

In light of the recent plan by all area independent schools to address the effects of underage substance abuse, the RPCS Parents' Association, with the support and affirmation of the RPCS administration, presents the SAFE HOMES Program. The School community's positive response to SAFE HOMES reflects parental commitment to address the problem of widespread use of alcohol (and other drugs) among our teenagers. SAFE HOMES can be a focus for dialogue between parents and children, a vehicle for communication.

Therefore, we urge you to take a few moments to talk with your children about the SAFE HOMES program. Please use this time to share with them your feelings about alcohol and drug use and ask them to share with you their feelings and concerns about this issue. If you decide to commit to the program, we ask that you sign the pledge form, detach and fold it with the RPCS address on the outside, and return it to School **no later than JUNE 30, 2008**. We will note the names of those families who are participating in the program in the Directory section of the *Red Book*. Inclusion in the *Red Book* is based on returning the pledge by this date. It goes without saying that to sign the pledge form with less than full intent to conform to all aspects of the program seriously weakens our purpose and effectiveness.

In addition to the SAFE HOMES program, it is a good time to discuss with your children the RPCS Alcohol/Drug Policy which is found in its entirety in the *Red Book*. In part, the policy prohibits the possession, use, sale or distribution of drugs or alcohol on the School premises or at school-sponsored activities. It calls for the suspension or expulsion of students who violate this policy. However, "the School will support any student who comes forward on her own (with a substance abuse problem) and will assist her in the way which is thought to be most beneficial to the well-being of both the student and RPCS. The School recognizes that alcohol/substance abuse is a disease and supports the need for a non-punitive, supportive environment for working toward resolution of such a problem." To that end, professional counselors on staff are available to provide help concerning a drug and/or alcohol problem.

We welcome the committed participation of all RPCS Middle and Upper School families in the SAFE HOMES Program and ask for the support of parents in the firm and fair enforcement of the Alcohol/Drug Policy.

Sally H. Barley

Sally H. Barley
Parents' Association President 2008-2009

Jean Waller Brune

Jean Waller Brune
Head of School

(Detach here)

SAFE HOMES

Please sign the pledge form below, fold it with the RPCS address on the outside, and either mail or deliver to the School. The names of participating families will be published in the 2008-2009 *Red Book*.

SAFE HOMES FOR ROLAND PARK COUNTRY SCHOOL
A Parent's Pledge



- I will supervise parties and gatherings in our home.
- I will not knowingly allow parties/gatherings in our home when we are not there.
- I will not knowingly permit the consumption of alcohol or the illegal use of drugs by school-age guests in our home or on our property.

Name of Parent(s)

Address

City, State, Zip

Phone Number

Mother's Signature _____ Father's Signature _____

Date _____ Daughter(s)'s Name & Grade _____

(Signatures of BOTH parents are required except for single-parent households. Signing this pledge creates no more legal liability than already exists under Maryland Law.)