



KARLA N. SMITH
JUDGE

SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
OF MARYLAND
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850

(240) 773-4066

Dear Principal and/or Counselor:

We want to share with you information about our upcoming program, *Preparing for Success*, which will be held on Saturday, April 22, 2017 at 10 AM at Montgomery College (Germantown Campus).

Preparing for Success is an all-day conference, intended to provide useful and practical information for students. The Montgomery County Women's Bar Foundation designed, planned and has offered this program yearly beginning in 2001. Historically, the program was offered to high school girls. The program offered workshops that addressed interviewing, resume writing, career choices, getting into college, and a section on helping young girls stay safe while in high school.

In recent years, however, we have observed a wider array of issues that affect both boys and girls in high school and middle school that remain unaddressed. For example, drug use, dangers on social media, safe driving, and police encounters are just some of the challenges that our youth confront every day. Additionally, we noticed that parents were unaware of the recent trends in drug use and abuse, the risks of entertaining underage parties where alcohol is served, and the threats on social media their children face each day. To keep pace with these issues, we modified our program to reach co-ed students in both middle schools and high schools and their parents.

This year's *Preparing for Success* program is titled, "**Navigating Life, the Streets & Social Media.**" The program will begin with a keynote speaker after which the students and the parents will break out into separate sessions. Each presentation will follow with a brief town hall discussion which will be moderated by one of our volunteer attorneys, who will encourage and invite neutral dialogue with the attendees.

For the students, the presentations will cover the following topics: "The Cannots of Cannabis and Other Illicit Substances", "Drive and Stay Alive", "Safety in the Era of Social Media" and "Busting Myths about Police Encounters." The parents will have their own session on the following topics: "Don't Be the 'Cool' Parent," "Speak Up, Save a Life", "Safety in the Era of Social Media" and "Busting Myths about Police Encounters."



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The entire day is free of charge. A light breakfast and lunch will be served to our attendees. Students have an opportunity to win various prizes for their active participation. We will have available a Spanish interpreter for those attendees who need one. **The students from the school with the highest attendance at the event will receive a special treat!**

We are fortunate to have the support of the prosecutors of the State's Attorney's Office for Montgomery County, officers at the Montgomery County Police Department and private attorneys in civil and criminal practice that volunteer their time and resources in crafting presentations that will be informative, poignant and relevant to today's challenges.

We hope that you will encourage your students and their parents to attend this educational program. I have attached a flyer (in both English and Spanish) that you can share with them. Students and parents are encouraged to register for the event on our website at www.preparing4success.com.

Thank you, and we hope to see your students and parents on April 22!

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karla N. Smith', written in a cursive style.

Karla N. Smith