
ISSUES THAT JUNIOR HIGH STUDENTS FACE

Kennedy Junior High School

Lisle, Illinois

Early in the school year, some Kennedy Junior High School students behaved inappropriately at a party. The parent community asked the school for guidance on how to help their junior high students make better choices. The Parent Involvement Team responded by addressing the topic at a special meeting open to all parents. Two new initiatives came from that meeting.

First, the team developed a student assembly focused on the social pressures students face each day. The District Student Assistance Coordinator and an officer from the Naperville Police Department talked to the students (in separate assemblies for sixth graders, and seventh and eighth graders) about their responsibilities and choices when faced with difficult situations. The presenters encouraged students to talk with their parents about any questions or concerns.

The second initiative addressed the parents' point of view through an evening presentation entitled "What Parents Really Need to Know About the Social Issues Junior High Students Face Today." Diane Busch, a locally renowned expert in the field, focused her presentation on adolescent issues and offered guidance on how to help students navigate safely through the social issues they face. Over 125 parents from all five district junior highs attended the event. Parents were grateful for the information and tools offered to help them parent their teenagers.

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