

Educationally Speaking
March 2011

Dear Mom or Dad:

I need for you to remember that I am a teenager who is growing up in many, many ways. There are lots of demands and expectations that I have of myself and that others have of me. Additionally, there are temptations that seem desirable, including sex and alcohol and drugs.

I don't remember when the last time was that we talked about these topics, if ever. I don't know if you know these temptations are real for teenagers or that they are real for me. I don't know if these topics are too hard for you to discuss with me or you are just hoping that I won't get involved. Though I may not have asked you or I may be rebellious at times, I need your parental guidance.

I know many teenagers are sexually active and that many make poor decisions that increase their risk for getting pregnant and/or acquiring a sexually transmitted disease. Help me understand the benefits of abstinence, but also help me understand the risks and consequences if I make a choice other than abstinence.

I know that alcohol and drugs are accessible to teenagers in our community. Again, I understand the benefits of abstinence, but also help me understand the risks and consequences if I make a different decision.

I also know that as a parent, you can help reduce my exposure to situations in which I might be tempted to be sexually active or use alcohol and drugs. Help me...even if I act as if I don't want your help.

I love you. I know you love me, too. Can we talk?

Dale J. Mitchell, Ed.D.
Superintendent