



Dear Parents:

Every year, we hear of at least one horrific automobile crash that takes the lives of young drivers because someone chose to drive distracted or while under the influence of an illicit substance. The Council on Addiction Prevention and Education (CAPE) of Dutchess County and the Dutchess County High Schools, have joined in an effort to prevent these tragedies that needlessly take the lives of our children, by hosting *Teen Driving: A Family Affair* for students and their families. The program runs in the Spring from mid-March through May, during the school year.

This is a **MANDATORY** program for students who are applying for school parking permits for the upcoming school year, and for the parents/guardians who play such a crucial role in their teen's safe driving.

If you were unable to attend the 2022 Spring sessions, you will have the opportunity to **attend one of two Fall make-up sessions**. If you want your child to be able to drive to school, you and your student driver **NEED TO ATTEND THIS EVENT**.

This year the 2022 make-up sessions will return to the in-person format and will be hosted by the Spackenkill and Arlington School Districts. ALL DISTRICTS MAY ATTEND THESE SESSIONS on the following dates:

Spackenkill High School on Tuesday, September 20, 2022

Arlington High School on Thursday, September 22, 2022

During this program, parents and students will hear from three perspectives: insurance, medical and legal. The program culminates by hearing from a victim of an impaired or distracted driving incident, whose life has been forever changed by someone's reckless decision. These compelling accounts will reinforce every warning you've ever given, every message issued by teachers, and every public service announcement seen on television. **(Please note: Due to the sensitive nature of the perspectives presented we recommend not bringing children under twelve to the program).**

Please plan to arrive by **6:30 for registration**, so that we can begin the program promptly at 7:00. There is no need to pre-register. **We ask that parents/guardians sit with their student as this is a family event.**

Please contact your school should you have any questions or need any additional information.

Best regards,

Dora Celestino

Community Educator/Teen Driving Coordinator