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RISK EVALUATION TOOL FOR PARENTS

CAUTION: *Some students might suggest that these questions are none of their parents' business. They are. Remember: Parenting is not a popularity contest.*

Your kids will have lots of friends – they need you to be their parent.

Good kids from loving families are not immune to danger at high-risk moments (high-risk events). Even in a community like ours, students are exposed to options that can be fatally dangerous. As parents and adults, we have an obligation to make sure our kids are safe. Use the following five questions as a tool to evaluate the risk associated with the activity in which your underage son or daughter wants to participate.

1. Where will you be?
2. At what phone number can you be reached?
3. Who are the adults chaperoning the activity? Consider the following:
 - Do you know them?
 - Are they the parent or guardian of the young person hosting the event?
 - Will they be present during the entire event?
 - Are they responsible?
 - Do they allow underage alcohol, tobacco, or drug use?
4. Who is attending the event? Consider the following:
 - How old are they?
 - What is the gender mix?
 - Will they be classmates or from a variety of schools?
5. What will you be doing? Consider the following:
 - Is this activity age appropriate?
 - Will young people be served alcohol?
 - Will adult chaperons be drinking?
 - Could young people sneak alcohol there?
 - Will young people be coming and going from the event?
 - Is the activity dangerous? If so, what precautions will be or have been taken? (For instance, wearing life jackets while jet-skiing.)
 - Are you comfortable with this type of activity?
 - Is any part of this activity illegal or immoral?

PARENTING TIP: When you need to say no, make sure they know it is because you love them, not because you need to control them!

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