



March 13, 2009

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Your 8th grade student is invited to participate in the ninth annual **RAP Party** at GCMS Middle School on Friday, April 3, 2009. RAP is an activity designed to help students prepare for life after Middle School. Activity organizers Julie Withrow (Middle School Guidance Counselor), Mark Berry (8th Grade Social Studies Teacher), and Cathy Walker-Steidinger (PACT Director) have planned an afternoon and evening of activities that will give the students an opportunity to have fun as well as learn about themselves, learn about High School, and help them start thinking about some of the choices they will face as young adults.

This year's RAP will begin after lunch with all 8th grade students participating in a Drug and Alcohol Prevention session and RISK simulations. The RISK (Read Issues of the Sexual Kind) simulations are designed to help youth understand the risks of sexual behaviors. Abstinence is clearly presented as the only 100% full-proof method to avoid pregnancy, STDs, and HIV.

After the school day dismisses, students who have permission to stay for the after school activities will participate in the following sessions:

The ACT OUT (GCMS High School Improvisational Group), will present skits about high school. Using humor, they will address many of the questions and concerns 8th graders have about being freshmen. They will also hold a time of questions and answers.

Health Issues - The girls and guys will participate in separate discussion sessions that will include the topics of hygiene, abstinence, STD's, body piercing, tattoos, and a time for questions.

Relationships - The girls and guys will participate in separate sessions in which they will hear about the importance of respect in all relationships, the importance of maintaining friendships, and what is and what is not acceptable in dating and boy-girl relationships.

Fun and Food - There will be games and other activities in the gym and pizza to eat!

All 8th grade students will participate in the school-day portion of RAP. The permission slip found at the conclusion of this letter is for the after school portion of RAP. The entire activity will conclude at 7:00 p.m. Students must have a signed permission slip in order to stay for the after school sessions.

Please sign and return the permission slip by Friday, March 20, 2009, so that your 8th grade student can stay for the after school portion of the RAP party. It is our hope that RAP will address some of the needs of our students as they prepare to make the transition to high school. Please feel free to contact Julie Withrow (784-8731) or Cathy Walker-Steidinger (784-8731) with questions or suggestions.

Michael D. Bleich

Michael D. Bleich
Middle School Principal

Julie Withrow

Julie Withrow
Middle School Counselor

Cathy Walker-Steidinger

Cathy Walker-Steidinger
PACT Director

Mark Berry

Mark Berry
8th Grade Social Studies Teacher

8th Grade Parents are invited to a special "RAP Preview"
6:45 p.m. on Tuesday, March 31st

This will be an opportunity for parents to hear more details about RAP and the activities that are planned. There will also be time for questions and answers. The meeting will take place in the Middle School Media Center (Library).

R.A.P. Permission Slip

Due to Mrs. Withrow by Friday, March 20, 2009.

I give permission for _____ to attend the after school portion of the
(student's name)

RAP Party to be held at GCMS Middle School on Friday, April 3, 2009. In case of emergency, I can be reached at the following phone number during the evening: _____. I understand
(required)

that I will be responsible for picking up my child at 7:00 p.m. Also, I understand that if my child does not comply with the rules or is disruptive, they will be dismissed and I will be called to pick him/her up early.

Signature

Relationship