

North Hunterdon High School Presents

The Improbable Players

On June 1st 2009 all senior high school students at North Hunterdon High School will be attending a program about drug and alcohol abuse presented by the Improbable Players, a theater company of 25 actors who are professional actors as well as people in recovery.

The performance entitled "I'll Never Do That" is the company's original and best-loved performance. This presentation presents a spectrum of scenes about the disastrous roller coaster of drinking/drug use. The play offers scenes about drinking and driving, beer vs. pot, and ends with a story about a family torn apart by alcoholism.

"After seeing this program I am more likely to talk with someone, because I would not be afraid to express myself. I saw that alcoholics and addicts could look like you or me."

After the performance, the actors share their personal experiences with addiction. A question and answer period follows. Students will be encouraged to talk with each other and with you about the issues raised. A resource list about substance abuse will be available for each student, as well as a handout offering specific suggestions for how to help a friend.

What you can do to follow up with your child

You can play an active role in supporting your children through these years when they or their friends may be experimenting with drugs and alcohol. We would encourage you to use this program as an opportunity to have a conversation about alcohol and drug use in the community. Think about a few issues you may want to discuss regarding alcohol and drug use.

1. Ask about their impressions of the program. Listen to what your child has to say and try to follow his/her lead. What did they find interesting about the presentation? What did they find troubling or surprising? (Often students are most interested in the life experiences of the actors.)
2. Ask them if the program felt relevant to them, given their own experiences here in this town.
3. Take time to discuss your family's values and rules about drinking and drug use. Does your child know where you stand on these issues and why?
4. Discuss the legal and school consequences of underage alcohol use and of drug use.
5. If needed, remind your child that there are local resources. Encourage them to contact a guidance counselor, teacher, and coach or student assistance counselor for any assistance.

Additional Resources:

www.improbableplayers.org/home.html

www.theantidrug.com