

Conversations that Count

The evening will be one of dialogue and education related to underage drinking prevention and illicit drug use. This program was developed by The Community of Concern <http://www.thecommunityofconcern.org/>, a national nonprofit organization of which St. Thomas is a member.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with the format, during the program family members are asked to sit at separate tables. The evening includes a presentation highlighting scientific information of the effects of alcohol, tobacco and other drug use on the adolescent brain interspersed with structured table conversations regarding the high school social scene and alcohol and drug use prevention. This program is unique in that the conversations are facilitated by selected STH upperclassmen to foster intergenerational communication among students, parents and faculty in a proactive and positive way. The goal is to open doors, build trust, and enhance skills in order to take steps toward increasing meaningful and productive family communication.

You may feel tempted to think that while this is a worthwhile endeavor, that it does not pertain to your son because you trust him, he has no substance use problems, or that unlike so many others, he won't fall into any traps set before him through his adolescence. It is impossible to predict what the next few years hold for any of our young men, even those who are bright, responsible, and honest. I urge ALL students and their parents (at least one parent) to make attendance to this event a real priority. Our young men live in a complicated world, a world in which we as adults only have a small percentage of knowledge of its realities.