

TULLY CENTRAL SCHOOLS
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May 8, 2018

Dear Parents & Guardians,

With the Jr./Sr. Prom and Graduation right around the corner, we are writing today to share an upcoming event aimed at keeping our teens safe. Throughout the day on Friday, May 11th, members of Teen Institute will host Grim Reaper/White Out Day, an interactive program for students in grades 11-12 that demonstrates the dangers of impaired and distracted driving.

Based on recent statistics provided by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration we have learned that, in the United States, one person is killed in an alcohol-impaired or distracted driving crash about once every 39 minutes.

To help our high school students visualize those numbers, the character of Grim Reaper will travel through the halls and in and out of classrooms. About once every 39 minutes the Grim Reaper will tap one high school student on the shoulder to indicate a life lost. Students who are tapped will leave their classes for a short time and return, in costume, with a ghost-like presence. Their altered appearances will further demonstrate the statistic of lives lost needlessly.

Grim Reaper/White Out Day is a common program used in schools throughout the nation. It is intended to be serious, not scary. Led by students of with the help of extra student leaders, the message is most powerful when delivered peer-to-peer.

Though this is a high school program, it is possible that younger students throughout the building may see some of the dark characters. We encourage you to speak with your children about this event so they understand, in advance, that the unusual characters are in costumes and behind the dark hood or white face paint are the friendly faces of student leaders who are focused on safety. Teachers will do the same.

Our counselors will be available that day for any student that is directly or indirectly involved in our initiative. For students in grades 7-12, we are planning a special announcement in the morning so students are aware of the event and why we are doing it. At the end of the day there will be a pre prom assembly for grades 11-12 to continue our message of making safe decisions during this prom and graduation season.

We thank you in advance for your support. If you have any questions please contact us directly: Aleisha Pforter (aleisha.pforter@tullyschools.org) or Ashley Brunelle (ashley.brunelle@tullyschools.org).

Sincerely,

Aleisha Pforter
Ashley Brunelle
Teen Institute Co-Advisors