

## INFORMATION for PARENTS and STUDENTS



### 2009 SS/HS BRIEF STUDENT SURVEY

Our school is participating in the 2009 Safe Schools/Healthy Students (SS/HS) Brief Student Survey during the week of October 12-16, 2009.

**Please share the information in this flyer with your student, talk about the survey, and decide if your student will participate.**

#### Background

In 2007, Cowlitz County received a federal Safe Schools/Healthy Students grant to deliver school-based services to address issues of youth violence, alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use, and social/emotional problems. A requirement of the grant is to annually survey students about these issues.

#### What is the SS/HS Brief Student Survey?

The brief survey asks questions related to alcohol and drug use and safety at school (fighting, bullying). Survey results are used by local schools and our community partners to assess changes in problem behaviors and to make improvements in program services to support our youth.

The survey is voluntary and anonymous.

#### What questions are on the survey?

A total of 11 questions make up the brief survey. These questions come directly from the Healthy Youth Survey given in Washington State schools every other year. Parents or guardians can see a copy of survey questions in the school office.

Questions include:

- Background information (age, gender, grade, race/ethnicity)
- Alcohol and other drug use
- Violence-related behaviors
- Feelings about safety

#### Who will be asked to take the survey?

Students in Grades 6, 8, 10, and 12 across Cowlitz County.

#### Is the survey voluntary?

Yes! Students can choose to participate. Students taking the survey can skip questions and stop taking the survey at any time.

If you do not want your student to participate in the survey, *you can excuse your student from participating* by calling or sending a note to the school.

Students not taking the survey will be provided with an alternative activity, such as reading or working in the library.

There is no penalty for not taking part in the survey. Your student's grades will not be affected.

#### How is student identity protected?

Students will not write their names anywhere on the survey and there are no codes or other information to match a survey to a particular student.

No one from the school will look at the survey answers. Students put completed surveys into an envelope that is sealed before it leaves the classroom.

Survey reports of results will not identify any student.

#### Need more information?

If you have any questions about the purpose of the survey or survey procedures, please contact Educational Service District 112, Prevention Center, Sandy Mathewson, SS/HS Project Director (360)-750-7500 x 262.

The survey will be conducted by Maike & Associates, independent evaluators of the Safe Schools/Healthy Students project.

*Thank you for reviewing this information about the survey and talking with your student about participating!*