

PROJECT 7TH GRADE EDUCATES PARENTS TO COMBAT SUMMER DRUG PROBLEMS

Project 7th Grade, is a national initiative of the notMYkid organization that educates parents, schools and children on substance abuse prevention. Project 7th Grade serves as a family-oriented prevention resource that helps parents develop plans to communicate and maintain an early, but ongoing dialogue with their children about the perils of substance abuse, incorporating drug testing as a cornerstone of deterrence.

Project 7th Grade will be available to speak to parents of middle school students across the country about strategies to keep their families drug-free this summer, just because the kids are on break does not mean parents get a vacation from drug prevention efforts. There is in fact a 40% increase in first time drug use during June and July as compared to any other month during the year.

Project 7th Grade made the decision to educate parents based on the nation's current battle against methamphetamine, prescription drugs and overall adolescent drug use. Lacy Lowrey, Manager of National Programming and Development for Project 7th Grade, says the statistics are alarming and require immediate attention.

"Drug use triples between 6th and 8th grades, of kids who experiment with at least one drug 34% will become regular users by the end of the year" Lowrey said. "Project 7th Grade is prepared to educate parents about drugs and give them the necessary tools to keep their families' drug free."

The program is free to schools and parents, and each family that attends learns about drug issues, trends, terminology and paraphernalia. Each family that attends receives a free First Check home drug test kit and information about creating their own family drug prevention plan.

"Project 7th Grade understands that there are many forces in children's lives that may make them susceptible to drug use," Lowrey said. "However, through open communication and taking proactive steps such as home drug testing, we can battle these influences and help our children and our communities with this growing problem."

Middle schools and high schools, community groups and others interested in hosting a free Project 7th Grade presentation please e-mail Lacy Lowrey at lacy@notmykid.org or call 602-652-0163. Space is limited. For more information about notMYkid and Project 7th Grade, please visit www.notMYkid.org or www.Project7thGrade.org.

notMYkid was founded in 2000 and is dedicated to helping parents, teens, educators and communities with adolescent behavioral health issues. Project 7th Grade launched in 2004 and is in all 50 states. The program is available for free and partners with schools, community groups and police departments all across the country to educate parents about drug issues, trends, terminology, and paraphernalia and teach them how to create a proactive drug prevention plan for their family. Project 7th Grade and notMYkid educated over 100,000 people in 2007.

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