



Marion County
OREGON

For immediate release: October 28, 2009

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Survey Shows Most Marion County Students are Alcohol and Drug Free

According to the 2008 Oregon Healthy Teens (OHT) survey results, most Marion County students are alcohol and drug free. Nearly seventy percent of 8th graders and over half of 11th graders reported that they have not used drugs or alcohol in the past thirty days.

More than seventy percent of 8th graders reported not using drugs or alcohol in the past thirty days in ten of the Marion County schools that participated in the OHT survey in 2008; a total of eighty-one schools across the state met this criteria. The Oregon State Addictions and Mental Health Division has awarded a certificate of recognition for helping to reduce alcohol and drug use to each of these schools. The ten Marion County schools receiving this special recognition include:

Central Howell Elementary School
Evergreen Elementary School
Gervais Middle School
Jefferson Middle School
Monitor Elementary School
Pratum Elementary School
Silver Crest Elementary School
Stayton Middle School
Sublimity Middle School
Victor Point Elementary School

“Stressing the norm that most kids don’t use drugs and alcohol encourages kids to remain drug and alcohol free,” said Marion County Prevention Coordinator, Tonya Johnson. “It may also encourage students who do use, to quit.”

Salem Keizer School District participated in a different drug, alcohol and violence prevention survey, which was developed by Northwest Regional Education Laboratory. Results from the 2008 survey, show that more than seventy of 8th graders in all ten Salem-Keizer School District middle schools reported not using drugs or alcohol.

This information comes in time for Red Ribbon week, October 23-31, 2009. Red Ribbon Week raises awareness of drug use and the problems it causes in communities across the state. It is also a time to encourage parents, educators, business owners and other community organizations to promote drug-free lifestyles.

Red Ribbon Week was inspired by the death of one man. In 1985, Drug Enforcement Administration Special Agent Enrique S. "Kiki" Camarena was killed by drug traffickers. Shortly after Camarena's death neighbors from his hometown began wearing red ribbons to remember him and commemorate his sacrifice. Congress established Red Ribbon Week in 1988 in honor of Camarena's sacrifice with hopes of preventing drug use nationwide.

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