

September 19, 2008

Dear North High School Parents:

We want to let you know about an important event taking place on the North High campus very soon. On September 29, 2008, as part of activities surrounding national Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) has a unique opportunity to partner with North High School to bring awareness to the issue of dating violence. MAG will host a "Smart Date" event at the school and invite television and print news media to attend. The purpose of this letter is to inform you about this life-skills learning event.

Participating students will be excused from their second hour class at 9:05 a.m. on Monday, September 29 to attend the event, which will take place in the Auditorium on campus. President Diane Enos of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community will lead a brief discussion about dating violence and provide information on how teens can access resources to learn more about building healthy relationships. The students will then participate in the Smart Date event.

The theme of the Smart Date event is *See the Signs. Stop the Abuse*. Patterned after the popular speed-dating concept, male students will rotate around a room in five 4-minute "dates" with female students. But instead of the usual "getting to know you" questions, the teens will be asked to instead discuss dating issues using three categories of "signs": Stop, Caution, or Go. The idea is to get teens to begin recognizing for themselves what constitutes a healthy relationship, and how to spot possible danger signs.

Physical violence, of course, would be one example of a "Stop" behavior. The focus of the event will also include other "Stop" signs such as verbal abuse or controlling behavior in which a boyfriend isolates his girlfriend from friends and family. A "Use Caution" behavior might be a girlfriend who incessantly texts her boyfriend wanting to know his whereabouts. A relationship that gets a "Go" or green light would be one in which both partners demonstrate respect and trust for each other.

We believe this event will offer important lessons that will serve students for the rest of their lives and we encourage students to attend. Please fill out the form below and return it to the front office by Tuesday, September 23, 2008. If you have any questions about this event, please contact me at (602) 254-6300. For more information about MAG, please visit our Web site at [www.mag.maricopa.gov](http://www.mag.maricopa.gov).

Sincerely,



Amy St. Peter  
Human Services Manager

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Has \_\_\_\_\_  
Does Not Have \_\_\_\_\_

Permission to participate in the Dating Violence Press  
Conference and Smart Date event on September 19, 2008.

Signature of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_