

# On Point – October 2016, part 2

News briefs from Sherwood High School Parent Teacher Student Association

This news brief is the information the PTSA feels all members of our community should know. In general, please look for this to come out monthly. This is the second posting for October, and contains highlights from our first three speakers of the year.

## Sep #1: MCPS Personal Safety

- Your smart phone is a powerful tool to document suspicious behavior. If you see something, take a picture.
- Put down the phone, take out the ear buds, and pay attention to your surroundings.
- Walk in groups. Avoid walking alone.

## Sep #2: SAT/ACT Prep

- The ‘optional’ SAT essay may be required for the schools you are applying for. Be sure to check with the University(ies) if the essay is truly optional.
- The two tests, SAT & ACT, can work to different strengths. You can work with the SHS counseling office to help determine which test may be best suited for your student.
- If possible, take both the ACT and the SAT.

## Oct : Responsible behavior – Teen Drinking

- Hosting a teen drinking party carries significant legal risks to both adult and teen hosts, even if the homeowners were unaware of the party.
- **There is a huge risk to life and safety if drinking and driving.** But just being caught also has a large financial impact. Not only are there fines, but there are also lawyer and probation fees, alcohol education classes, and increased insurance rates. The total cost could be over \$5,000.
- Many parties now are “Poly” parties, mixing alcohol with prescription drugs, and not necessarily narcotics. These can exacerbate the effects of even moderate amounts of alcohol.
- When the teen driver thought his/her passenger valued caution more, they were more cautious - and vice versa.
- **Never ride with someone who has been drinking/using substances.** Call a parent, or friend to pick you up.
- Keep in mind the Good Samaritan Law. If you see someone drunk, call 911 and report it; your name will not be mentioned. The Good Samaritan Law also provides protections if escorting someone to medical treatment. **Please do not drop and run.** The medical professionals need any information you may have.

The next PTSA meeting is on Tuesday, 15 Nov 2016, in the SHS media center at 7:15. Please join us the Principal’s Report, and Guest Speaker Jamie Popernack from Mental Health Assoc. of Montgomery Co., “**Teen Depression and Suicide.**”