

jagPRIDE Handbook

Mill Valley High School

Shawnee, Kansas

Mission statement: To provide students with the best prevention tools possible to deal with the issues of underage drinking, other drug use, impaired driving and other destructive decisions. (SADD)

Background: jagPRIDE was established in 2007 as a youth coalition to promote prevention activities at Mill Valley High School. jagPRIDE is a registered SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) club. This unique approach involves young people delivering education and prevention message to their peers through school and community wide activities and campaigns. Independent studies have shown that students in schools with an established SADD chapter are more aware and informed about the risks of underage drinking, other drug use and impaired driving. Students are also more likely to hold attitudes reflecting positive reasons not to use alcohol.

MEMBERSHIP

jagPRIDE is open to all students who are committed to promoting the above mission. While students “apply” for membership at the beginning of the school year, no student is turned away. Students sign a commitment statement that they will abstain from substance abuse.

Member Organization:

Rather than electing officers, students volunteer to take turns leading small and/or large group activities so that everyone has the opportunity to learn and practice leadership skills.

Meeting Dates/Time:

jagPRIDE will meet Tuesday mornings at 7:15 AM when school is in session except for the months of December and May. In the event of inclement weather, the club will NOT meet regardless of whether school is cancelled or not. Meetings will take place in the main office or Ms. G’s room. Members may meet additional days/times as needed to complete projects.

Member Requirements:

- 1) Regular attendance. Members are expected to make every effort to email the advisor in advance if they will not be able to attend a meeting. These absences are marked as excused. Should a member have 3 unexcused absences, they will be notified that they will be dropped from the membership role. Upon an additional unexcused absence, they are dropped and are not allowed.
- 2) Members are not allowed to do homework during the meeting. Students are expected to attend, participate and to plan accordingly. Absences due to meeting with a teacher or preparing for a test are excused.
- 3) Members are not allowed to be on their phones during the meeting unless they are in a work group and looking up information.
- 4) Members are expected to abstain from destructive decisions.

Consequences for Violations:

- 1) Students will be reminded of club guidelines as necessary for minor offenses such as doing homework during the meeting.
- 2) If violation continues, club sponsor will meet with the student(s) privately to discuss time management and appropriate behavior.
- 3) Students will be encouraged to self-report destructive decisions and the club sponsor will address with the student and the parent.
- 4) If student is not able to adhere to the club rules, a discussion will take place as to whether this activity is in his/her and the club's best interest.
- 5) Should a member have 3 unexcused absences, they will be notified that they will be dropped from the membership role. Upon an additional unexcused absence, they are dropped and are not allowed.

ACTIVITIES

- 1) jagPRIDE has restructured how we deliver messages due to observations about why students use as well as research which supports those observations. The club will make every effort to sponsor monthly "Stress-free Seminars" where students will learn healthy ways to cope.
- 2) It is important to have diverse awareness projects so that the chapter does not become "one dimensional". Suggested activities include:
 - a. Seat belt awareness
 - b. Red Ribbon campaign
 - c. Sexual assault awareness (especially related to substance use)
 - d. Distracted driving awareness
 - e. Prescription drug abuse awareness
 - f. Suicide awareness/prevention
 - g. Alcohol awareness – especially binge drinking and health consequences for "blackout"
 - h. Safe spring break awareness
 - i. Safe Prom awareness

CHAPTER ADVISOR

Although jagPRIDE is a student run chapter, an advisor is required. Qualities of the advisor include:

- 1) Being passionate about and committed to the chapter mission.
- 2) Ability to empower students to communicate the message throughout the school and community.
- 3) Ability to listen to what students have to say and treat their contributions with respectful consideration.
- 4) Encourage and reinforce individual student efforts by facilitating each student's sense of inclusion and connectedness, power to influence and openness to others.
- 5) Foster a sense of a safe community with the chapter, promote collaboration and diversity and empower students to engage in and lead activities.
- 6) Be a positive role model by making healthy choices and demonstrating collaboration, compassion, active listening and respect for differences.
- 7) Act as a liaison between jagPRIDE and the National SADD organization as well as many other national and state organizations which promote this message.
- 8) Monitor the financial expenditures and constraints.
- 9) Be flexible in ability to meet outside of school hours.
- 10) Act as a liaison between the chapter and building and/or district level administration.
- 11) Support student concerns as students often seek the advisor's counsel on projects, activities, school and family issues and other personal situations.
- 12) A background in adolescent psychology and youth substance abuse is important.