

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Polaris K-12 School is hosting an Opioid Awareness presentation and forum that is sponsored by the U.S. Attorney's Office for students in grades 9-12. This presentation is part of their outreach program and will begin with an FBI documentary, *"Chasing the Dragon"* (edited for language), followed by a panel discussion. Panelists include: a federal prosecutor, FBI or DEA agent, Anchorage Police Officer, a medical professional, and someone directly affected by opioid abuse. They will discuss their experiences and how they see heroin/prescription opioids intersect with their work. There will also be an opportunity for students to ask questions.

This prevention/awareness program has been successfully shown in the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District as well as schools in the Anchorage School District. The program has also been used in rural and remote locations such as Kotzebue, Bethel, Ketchikan and Petersburg. Most recently, the Alaska Association of Student Government (AASG) used the documentary, reaching 45 schools across the state.

According to the Office of National Drug Control Policy: "Successful substance-abuse prevention leads to reductions in traffic fatalities, violence, unwanted pregnancy, child abuse, sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS, injuries, cancer, heart disease, and lost productivity... [However], the "no-use" message must be reinforced consistently by parents, teachers, clergy, coaches, mentors, and other care givers." *It is our hope that participation in this program will lead to your child having a better understanding of the risks and consequences of opioid abuse, and generate an opportunity for conversations at home and within the school about making healthy life choices.*

The primary goals of this program are (1) to encourage non-users to continue to be non-users, (2) to educate young people of the dangers of opioid abuse and explain how quickly addiction can happen (3) to encourage users of illegal drugs to stop such use. This presentation will be used to enhance students' knowledge and awareness of opioids and addiction within our community.

If you have further questions, please feel free to email Carol or Susy.

All students must turn in this signed form indicating their participation or declining participation. Please sign this form and return by **Monday, October 23rd**.

I give permission for _____
to attend the Opioid Awareness program "Chasing the Dragon" Monday, October 30th.

I do **NOT** give permission for _____
to attend the Opioid Awareness program "Chasing the Dragon" Monday, October 30th.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date: