Dear Parent/s or Guardian,

Your teen will be involved in an exciting program called *Safe Dates* on *(Insert Date Here.)*  This effective, research-based program targets the attitudes and behaviors associated with dating abuse and violence.

As indicated in the enclosed newsletter, dating abuse can be a significant problem for teens, as young as middle school. *Safe Dates* helps teens more clearly define what a healthy dating relationship is and what dating abuse is. It also helps teens understand the causes and consequences of dating abuse, as well as the key ways to prevent dating abuse from happening in the first place. Along with safe dating, we will also discuss internet safety, consent and the consequences of underage sexting.

We understand that some parents don’t want their teen dating until they are older. *Safe Dates* does not push or promote dating, but it will prepare your child for the future when they may begin to date. *Safe Dates* also does not discuss any sexually explicit content. We will be talking about sexual assault, but in more general terms.

The goal of this program is to help teens be and stay safe as they develop healthy relationships.

Please feel free to read through the attached newsletter. As the parent/guardian of your teen, you play the most important role in keeping your teen safe. This newsletter provides some helpful tips on how to do so.

If you should have any questions about the *Safe Dates* program or dating abuse/healthy relationships in general, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Tara Rex

Community Prevention Coordinator

Safe Dates and Play It Safe Facilitator

The Center for Child and Family Advocacy