



## **Garfield County School District No. 16**

**Grand Valley High School**

**Ryan Frink, Principal**

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December 22, 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians:

First semester is officially completed and I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas Break. As we enter the holiday season I encourage you to take time to talk with your students about positive decision making. One of the latest trends attacking students all over the county is an increased use and addiction to prescription medication. In the past week we have discovered, that Grand Valley High School is no different from any other school and community in the country. The difference lies in how we as a community will confront this issue head on by maintaining a zero tolerance policy and creating methods in which students can seek help. Grand Valley High School has dealt with the issues that have arisen over the last week and we are making every effort to ensure safety for all students.

According to the federal Centers for Disease Control, abuse of prescription drugs now causes more deaths from overdoses than drugs like heroin and cocaine. Nationally, the rate of deaths from prescription painkillers increased by 150 percent between 1999 and 2004. Students have a variety ways in which they can obtain prescription drugs. Often they're purchased from someone who has obtained them from a legal doctor's prescription. But when young people are involved, the drugs often come from home medicine cabinets or are obtained from someone with a prescription.

Please help by having conversations with your students and ensure all medication is stored in a secure location. We all need to work together to ensure prescription medication is not readily available and the temptation is removed. Consequences for distribution of any controlled substance will result in an expulsion hearing and report to law enforcement. Make no mistake, school consequences are the least of the concern; we are dealing with the leading killer of young people today. Thank you for all your continued support. Please feel free to contact me with any questions and/or concerns.

Sincerely,

Ryan Frink  
Principal  
Grand Valley High School  
(970) 285-5705