



AZTEC MUNICIPAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

"Building a Foundation of Success"

Office of the Superintendent

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May 8, 2019

Paul McQueary

President – "Don't Meth with Us" Foundation

Dear Paul:

It is very evident over the years of the positive impact the "Don't Meth With Us" program has had on the reduction of the use of meth in juveniles. Programs that you have conducted in our schools have been very valuable and I believe have had a huge impact on our students and changed, but more importantly saved lives. We hear it every year with the personal stories of students that read their essays at the award luncheon of how their lives have been influenced by the negative effects of drugs. But through this program they have been aware of the dangers and have overcome the evil pitfalls of meth and other dangerous drugs during their life. With all the focus on standardized testing, I know that schools may be reluctant to open their doors for this type of organization to come in and present to students. We have to be careful that we do not open the flood gates, but with an issue such as this, what we are really opening is the positive future for our students. We know that the young people of today are our future. We also know that schools must educate the child no matter where they come from.

Unfortunately, schools are the only safe and secure place for many of our students. This is the reality of what exists for many students, though we cannot change that situation, we can change their future. As stated in our mission statement "in a safe caring environment, we will partner with our community to improve learning for all students. "This program speaks to our mission, but more importantly it speaks to our kids and our future. Academics are our main focus in education, and it must always be, but one hour of time may be the difference of a student going to college, going to jail, or even worse, ending their life. More importantly, it may be the difference between life and death. I would also offer to you that this program has contributed to an improved graduation rate in our area. We have seen an increase over the years since this program has been in place, and if you look throughout our county the same can be said with other school districts. Obviously there are many factors that contribute to this, but this is one of the community partnerships that can be linked to helping keep students away from drugs and keeping them in school. There are many pieces to the pie that contribute to the success of students, and this is one of them.

The "Don't Meth with Us" program is very powerful and we have a fond place in our hearts because that slogan was created in our very own district with Park Avenue Elementary students. And to hear students in the high school talk about the recollection of the program when it came to their school is a sound reminder of just how powerful this message is and why it needs to continue.

Our Mission:

In a safe, caring environment, we will partner with our community to improve learning for all students.

Educators are in the business of saving lives and for that reason, I encourage schools across this great country, and the world to open their doors to this program. If not now when, and if not us, then who? This one-hour presentation may be the difference maker a child needs to a drug free future.

Sincerely,



Kirk M. Carpenter

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