The Wake County Public School System and local Emergency Services are committed to providing the best possible service to the citizens of our community. One of the most important issues for high school students is motor vehicle safety. Teen drivers are being injured at an alarming rate. Therefore, we intend to offer information to teen drivers and their families to help prevent future tragedies.

The VIP for a VIP program will consist of a 1 hour presentation in the auditorium at 9:15 am providing testimony and statistics directly related to teenage fatalities. At 1:00 in the afternoon, the students will assemble outside for a demonstration of a fatal car crash.

This program is dedicated to the students that have lost their lives in motor vehicle accidents while attending Green Hope High School since it opened. We sincerely believe that through an ongoing teenage driver education program and strong parental support, teenage traffic fatalities can be eliminated in our community. We consider the students at Green Hope High School VIP's.

For Additional Information Contact:
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Program Sponsors:
Wake County Public Schools
Green Hope High School
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Cary Area Emergency Medical Service
Cary Police Departments
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Our goal is to deliver a quality, meaningful program that, in a loving, caring way, shares the danger that our young drivers face when operating a motor vehicle. Our hope is that something they see or hear will create a heightened awareness of these dangers and encourage better driving behaviors that reduce or eliminate these risks. We want as many students as possible to evaluate and measure our efforts to share this important information. Please encourage all students attending the VIP Program to complete the 3 minute online survey following the program.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/VIP_program

Remind students to be HONEST in their answers so we can improve the VIP for a VIP program and to NOT to put their name anywhere on the survey.
Dead at 17

Agony claws my mind. I am a statistic. When I first got here, I felt very much alone. I was overwhelmed by grief, and I expected to find sympathy.

I found no sympathy. I saw only thousands of others whose bodies were as badly mangled as mine. I was given a number and placed in a category. The category was called "Traffic Fatalities".

The day I died was an ordinary school day. How I wish I had taken the bus! But I was too cool for the bus. I remember how I wheeled the car out of Mom. "Special favor," I pleaded. "All the kids drive." When the 2:50 P.M. bell rang, I threw my books in the locker. Free until tomorrow morning! I ran to the parking lot, excited at the thought of driving a car and being my own boss.

It doesn't matter how the accident happened, I was goofing off-going too fast, taking crazy chances. But I was enjoying my freedom and having fun. The last thing I remember was passing an old lady who seemed to be going awfully slow. I heard a crash and felt a terrific jolt. Glass and steel flew everywhere. My whole body seemed to be turned inside out. I heard myself scream.

Suddenly, I awakened. It was very quiet. A police officer was standing over me. I saw a doctor. My body was mangled. I was saturated with blood. Pieces of jagged glass were sticking out all over. Strange that I couldn't feel anything. Hey, don't pull that sheet over my head. I can't be dead. I'm only 17. I've got a date tonight. I'm supposed to have a wonderful life ahead of me. I haven't lived yet. I can't be dead.

Later I was placed in a drawer. My folks came to identify me. Why did they have to see me like this? Why did I have to look at Mom's eyes when she faced the most terrible ordeal of her life? Dad suddenly looked very old. He told the man in charge, "Yes-he is our son."

The funeral was weird. I saw all my relatives and friends walk toward the casket. They looked at me with the saddest eyes I've ever seen. Some of my buddies were crying. A few of the girls touched my hand and sobbed as they walked by.

Please-somebody-wake me up! Get me out of here. I can't bear to see Mom and Dad in such pain. My grandparents are so weak from grief they can barely walk. My brother and sister are like zombies. They move like robots. In a daze. Everybody. No one can believe this. I can't believe it, either.

Please don't bury me! I'm not dead! I have a lot of living to do! I want to laugh and run again. I want to sing and dance. Please don't put me in the ground! I promise if you give me just one more chance, God, I'll be the most careful driver in the whole world. All I want is one more chance. Please, God, I'm only 17.

Excerpt: Taken from; Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul Page 226, 227 Writer: John Berrio

VIP Contract for Life

I_________________________, promise to obey all traffic laws, and wear available lap and shoulder restraints at all times, when operating, or riding, in a motor vehicle. Further, I will not operate a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or drugs, including prescription medications that may alter my ability to drive safely. I will not ride in a motor vehicle with anyone who is impaired by drugs or alcohol. I understand that this is a "Zero Tolerance" agreement (no amount of alcohol or drugs will be tolerated regardless of how small). I agree to limit passengers in my car to a number established by my parent(s) or guardian(s). Additionally, I will call my parents for transportation if I cannot drive safely, or if I do not feel safe riding with another driver.

Signature___________________________
I,_________________________________
the parent/guardian of
____________________
____________________

promise to abide by the provisions of the above agreement also. I will recognize your good decision to not drive, calling me instead, and I will respond respectfully, agreeing to provide transportation for you at any time. Additionally, I will set a good example when operating a motor vehicle. I promise to ensure your safety by revoking your driving privileges if you violate this agreement.

Signature___________________________

Date______/______/______