



Elk County Catholic School System

February 15, 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As you are aware, our children are growing up in a society where drug use is becoming more and more a threat to their health and development. Unfortunately, drug abuse can affect any child, even those of well-intentioned and involved parents. We want to make you aware of a unique experience for your 6th grade child. The Saint Marys Area Middle School, Elk County Catholic School System, and various members of our community have partnered with Candle Inc. to offer a drug awareness / prevention program called **The Reality Tour**.

The Reality Tour is an evidence-based program used in hundreds of locations nationally. The program exposes students and parents to the growing threats related to drug use and abuse. The session you attend at the Saint Marys Area Middle School will consist of student acted dramatic scenes that include a drug arrest, a prison experience, emergency room scene, and a funeral scene. Actors from the Saint Marys Area High School will work with Saint Marys Chief of Police Tom Nicklas, Ambulance Service paramedics, and funeral director Lou Radkowski to present these dramatic scenes. Students are then shown a drug prevention DVD and speaker presentations. Next, local law enforcement will give a presentation to students about their experiences with our local drug challenges. Finally, the night will end with a personal story of a local recovering addict. Students and parents will have the opportunity to ask questions at any point of the program.

Your child's attendance is not mandatory but is encouraged. Because we have worked to secure grants and local contributions, there is no cost to participants. In addition, your child will receive a homework pass for the night of their attendance. Research has shown that when parents are involved, drug prevention education is far more effective. **For this reason, your child MUST be accompanied by a parent or guardian.** More information will be sent home with your child soon. You will have a choice of two dates, March 22nd or March 23rd. If you have any questions about the program, please St. Marys Catholic Middle School at 834-2665.

Sincerely,

John Schneider
Principal
St. Marys Catholic Middle School

Lynne Kucenski
Principal
St. Leo School

PLEASE RETURN REGISTRATIONS BY MONDAY, MARCH 6



Registration Form / Waiver

The *Reality Tour* is a national project of CANDLE, Inc. a non-profit organization (www.realityTour.org)

In Order to accommodate you to the best of our ability, please put a "1" next to your first choice, "2" next to your second choice.

- ☐ Wednesday March 22nd (Parent/Guardian(s) who will attend with child: _____)
- ☐ Thursday, March 23rd (Parent/Guardian(s) who will attend with child: _____)

The doors will open at 5:15pm. We ask that you register and be seated by 5:45pm. Doors will close at 5:50pm. There will be no admittance after this time. The tour will begin promptly at 6pm.

Important registration information: Your reservation will be confirmed!

Do not assume you are accepted for the tour date requested. You will receive confirmation from the school.

The undersigned understands that the Reality Tour includes the following scenarios:

(Please circle if you wish to opt out of any portion of the tour)

Peer Pressure Skit Emergency Room/Overdose Funeral Scene Arrest/Prison Surveys

Some sections of the Reality Tour may be emotionally charged and parental guidance is a must.

I agree to allow my child/children _____ Age/Age(s) _____ to participate in the Reality Tour and the self-reported survey data collection included in the program.

To opt out of survey check here _____.

(CHECK ONE) I will _____ or I will not _____ accompany my child on the tour. Parent or legal guardian must attend with any child under 18 years of age.

If legal guardian, please name: _____.

I have read the above and agree not to hold CANDLE, Inc. or its affiliates liable for any claims, damages, demands, actions, or lawsuits that could arise as a result of my participation or my child's participation in the Reality Tour. News photographers may be present at a Reality Tour.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Print name here

Date

List the names, ages, and grade level youth attending, include names of adults attending as well.

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

4. _____ 5. _____ 6. _____

There is no cost or fee to attend. Costs of the program have been covered through donations and grants. ***Please Return this form to the main office no later than MARCH 6th, 2023 !***