

LETTER TO PARENTS: *Children & Youth Personal Safety Program*  
Intermediate Grades (5-8)  
Place on parish or school letterhead

(Date)

Dear Parents,

The safety of your children is always uppermost in your mind. We have taken many steps in recent years to do our part in ensuring that your children are in a safe place when they are participating in a program in (your parish or school). All of our staff and volunteers have received the required background checks and training. We have implemented a program to help your children recognize the steps they can take to keep themselves safe. Lesson plans have been prepared for different age groups among the students. [We are also providing information materials (enclosed) for you that may help you with matters that can affect your child or children's safety.] [You may also find two very useful publications on the internet as follows:

“Know the Rules”

English: <https://bit.ly/2Q7naTp>

“25 Ways to Make Kids Safer”

English: <https://bit.ly/2xPgH8d>

Spanish: <https://bit.ly/2MYvzqw>

We strongly encourage you to download these two items. You are encouraged to spend time reviewing this information, and then sitting down with your children. As children grow, it is helpful to review the information and apply it to the new set of circumstances that children face in the pre-teen and early teenage years. Our goal is to equip you with knowledge that can help to keep them safe.

For young people, friendships outside the home are very important. Parents should know who their child's friends are, and where they spend their time. Especially note if your child is “hanging around” with students who are several years older. This is always a red flag for parents.

Media influences are very much a part of the life of young people. It is extremely important for parents to monitor the movies watched, the books read, and especially computer use of their teens. Computers and other media devices should have safe guards on them and accessible to parents. Computers should be in a “public” area of the home under the watchful eye of parents. We strongly discourage single dating of young people; that should be put off until late in high school years. Mixed group activities are best for children in the middle school and early high school grades.

The basic point is that parents need to be involved with their children. The more you know about daily events of your children's lives, the better you are able to spot danger signs that may surface. The more regular your communication with your children, the more free they are to come to you with their concerns.

May our Lord bless you and your family.

Sincerely yours,

/S/

(Pastor, DRE, Youth Director or Principal)