September 2018

Dear Seventh Grade Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

The Simi Valley Unified School District is committed to providing the most effective approaches to preventing the use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in our schools and communities. Simi Valley Unified School District has been a long standing recipient of Tobacco Use Prevention Education (TUPE) grant funding and, as a result, is able to provide age-appropriate substance abuse prevention curriculum. Last year, your child participated in a curriculum called Model Smoking Prevention Program (MSPP). This year, as seventh graders, your child will participate in a science based curriculum called Project ALERT. To view the curriculum, please visit www.projectalert.com.

Project ALERT contains eleven lessons that focus on alcohol, tobacco, marijuana and inhalants - those substances that are commonly the first and most widely used by young people today. Project ALERT’s focus is on motivating non-use, learning to recognize pressures to use, and on developing and practicing skills to resist these pressures. This curriculum uses a variety of instructional strategies such as videos, peer-led discussion groups, role-play, various games, and worksheets to be done at home. In addition to the eleven lessons, your child may be given the opportunity to hear from professionals, such as nurses and pharmacists, or guest speakers from Straight Up Ventura County, Ventura County Public Health or Ventura County Behavioral Health regarding tobacco, marijuana, e-cigarette/vape, drug and/or alcohol use and abuse.

We look forward to continuing our partnership with you as we help your child stay healthy and achieve academic success. Additional resources can be found on the SVUSD Substance Abuse and Prevention website: www.simivalleyusd.org/substanceabuse. If you have any questions and/or concerns please feel free to contact me at shannon.mccabe@simivalleyusd.org and/or (805) 306-4500 ext. 4318.

Sincerely,

Shannon McCabe
Tobacco Use Prevention Education Coordinator