

# Morristown High School

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Linda Murphy, Principal

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Dear Parent/Guardian:

Morristown High School is committed to providing our teens and their families with as much support as possible to raise healthy and safe teenagers. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, traffic crashes are a leading cause of teen fatalities in the U.S. In order to reduce the number of automobile crashes involving young drivers, Morristown High School will be adding a nationally recognized program, "Alive at 25", for Teen Driving safety into its health curriculum.

The focus of the "Alive at 25" program is to increase parental understanding of the provisions of the NJ Graduated Driver's License (GDL), the risks associated with teen driving, and the critical role they can play in teen safety. Parents, administrators, faculty members, local police and municipal court judges have been involved in this initiative. The "Alive at 25" program is already being taught in several local school districts and receives high praise from parents for its value. It includes both student and parent education components. We encourage **all** parents to take advantage of this valuable program.

In June 2009, Morristown High School, with the support of the Morris School District Board of Education, amended the Senior Parking Policy to mandate the attendance of a parent with a student at the National Safety Council Teen Driver Program ("Alive at 25") before a Morristown High School student submits an application for a senior parking permit. The class of 2011 will be the first class impacted by this mandate.

## **PARENT CLASSES – TEEN SAFETY PROGRAM**

Attendance by all parents at the parent program is crucial for its success as it complements the four hour "Alive at 25" program that has been incorporated into all Junior Health classes. The goals of this program are to:

1. Inform family members about the risks of teen driving based on solid, scientific evidence.
2. Provide practical advice about strategies that the National Safety Council believes may reduce the risks of teen driving.
3. Encourage parent-teen cooperation and involvement throughout the entire process from learning to drive through independent driving. Increase parent and teen understanding of NJ Graduated Driver's License requirements.

All parents are encouraged to bring their sophomore, junior, or senior students with them to the program. Sophomores attending an adults' session of "Alive at 25" get extra credit for their 10<sup>th</sup> grade Drivers Education Theory class. Additional extra credit can be granted if a parent attends with a sophomore student. This class is also recommended for any families with students who already hold state permits. Parents who have attended the program say they wish they had the information earlier in the teen driver process. Please check the Morristown High School web site ([www.morristownhighschool.org](http://www.morristownhighschool.org)) for class dates as well as any changes or cancellations.

Students in the Class of 2010 are "grandfathered", although strongly encouraged to attend one of this year's programs.

### **2009-2010 Parent Program Dates/Time/Location are listed below:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Registration Time</b>	<b>Start Time</b>	<b>Room</b>	<b>Presenter</b>
October 14, 2009	6:30 PM	7:00 PM	Auditorium	All Police Depts.
November 21, 2009	11:30 AM	12:00 PM	Auditorium	Morristown PD
January 20, 2010	6:30 PM	7:00 PM	Auditorium	Morris Plains PD
February 13, 2010	9:30 AM	10:00 AM	Auditorium	Morris Township PD
March 15, 2010	6:30 PM	7:00 PM	Auditorium	Morristown PD
April 17, 2010	9:30 AM	10:00 AM	Auditorium	Morris Township PD
May 10, 2010	6:30 PM	7:00 PM	Auditorium	Morris Plains PD