

Dear Parent or Guardian:

The Burnt Hills Ballston Lake School District is planning to participate in the Prevention Needs Assessment Youth Survey. This survey of 6th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th graders is designed to improve our understanding of community strengths and the risks youth may face for problems like smoking, underage drinking and drug use. The information the students provide can help us all take steps to reduce and prevent these problems in the Burnt Hills/Ballston Lake area. This survey will also enable us to compare data from two previous surveys in order to help evaluate the effectiveness of our school and community efforts. The Prevention Council will be helping us to administer the survey and prepare comparison reports for the district and community.

Students at the high school will participate in this survey during their physical education classes on May 20th, 21st, and 24th. The following are facts about the survey:

1. It is totally **voluntary**. Your child does not have to participate. You do not have to give a reason for not participating. Students are not required to answer all questions, only those that they want to answer.
2. It is **anonymous**. The survey is designed to protect your child's and your school's privacy. No names or any other identifying information will ever be recorded. All of the surveys are carefully protected.
3. The Burnt Hills/Ballston Lake School District will use the school survey results to plan better health education and prevention efforts.
4. The Prevention Needs Assessment Survey has been scientifically tested and is valid and reliable. Developed in 1995, it has been given to over 200,000 students in schools across the United States without difficulty.

A copy of the survey is available at the Principal's Office of your child's school for review. You may also call Judy Ekman, Director of the Saratoga County Prevention Council, at 581-1230 for more information.

If you do not want your child to participate, simply sign and return the attached refusal form or call my office by May 20th. If you send the form, your child will be given an alternative activity to do during the survey period.

Thanks for your help. This survey is an important part of our effort to keep the children of our school district healthy and safe. I hope you will allow your child to participate.

Sincerely,

Maryellen Symer
Principal

Burnt Hills Ballston Lake Central School District

**Prevention Needs Assessment Youth Survey
Parent/Guardian Refusal Form**

If you do not want your child to participate please complete and sign this form:

I do not give my consent for my child(ren), 1. _____,
(child's name)

2. _____,
(child's name)

3. _____,
(child's name)

to participate in the May 2010 **Prevention Needs Assessment Youth Survey**.

Signature: _____

Date: 5 - _____ - 2010

Please return or mail this form by May 20th to the BHBL High School Principal's Office or call 399-9141 ext. 3303:

Mrs. Maryellen Symer
BH-BL High School
88 Lakehill Rd.
Burnt Hills, New York 12027