



Dear Freshman Parent:

In collaboration with all Jesuit High Schools, Rockhurst articulates the goals for education through a document called the *Profile of the Graduate-at-Graduation*. This document outlines five areas we strive to help your son develop. The "Grad-at-Grad" identifies the following categories: Open to Growth, Committed to Justice, Religious, Loving, and Intellectually Competent.

Over the last several years, the Rockhurst faculty has been engaged in an ongoing and ever evolving look at the life of the developing adolescent. It is our goal to help our young men and your sons know clearly the important life decisions which will best assist their development as children of God.

Lifeguard Youth Development received a grant to offer an abstinence-based education program to schools and community-based organizations. The program is presented through the **Choosing the Best** series. As a supplement to our overall curriculum, and in light of this cultural reflection on the developing adolescent, Rockhurst has elected to offer this program. The program will be part of your son's Theology classes this spring.

There are five objectives that the program will accomplish:

1. Create a supportive environment wherein abstinence until marriage is a shared belief.
2. Address at risk behaviors such as alcohol and drug usage and abuse, delinquency behavior, and lack of high school completion.
3. Address issues related to self esteem and self sufficiency as well as other social and psychological benefits of abstaining from sexual activity.
4. Equip participants with necessary coping skills and strategies, which will enable them to abstain from pre-marital sexual activity.
5. Provide parents with information and support in order to encourage open and honest dialogue in the home setting, which will increase the chance of a successful program outcome.

The program has ten sessions and strongly encourages active discussion between you and your son. The freshmen are given a pre- and post-test to measure what they have heard and learned in the eight sessions. This is a program for your child that discusses risky behaviors that teens are exposed to on a daily basis.

We are inviting you to attend a 60-minute presentation by trained professionals so that you can hear more about what your son will be learning during those ten sessions. Your presentation is scheduled on:

**Date:** March 22, 2010  
**Location:** McGee Hall  
**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

We hope that you will participate in the parent component of **Choosing the Best**. It will help you to feel free to talk openly and honestly with your son about issues regarding sex, sexually transmitted diseases, drug and alcohol use, goal setting, decision making and other personal choices that young people face today.

Blessings to you and your family,

Larry E. Ruby, Principal  
Rockhurst High School