

Sample letter to parents for Johnny's Ambassadors assemblies

<< Today's date >>

Dear Parent or Guardian,

On << date >>, students will be attending an assembly to listen to a presentation by Laura Stack, the Founder & CEO of the nonprofit, Johnny's Ambassadors Youth THC Prevention (<https://JohnnysAmbassadors.org>).

Laura Stack's 19-year-old son, Johnny, died by suicide on November 20, 2019, as a result of mental illness and psychosis from using high potency THC (the active ingredient in marijuana) vapes and dabs throughout high school. Soon afterward, Laura started a nonprofit to educate teens on the harms of THC.

Johnny was a computer whiz with a 4.0 GPA, a perfect math score on the SAT, and a college scholarship until his THC use sabotaged his plans. Three days before his death, Johnny told his mom how using marijuana had ruined his mind and his life. By weaving Johnny's story with current research, Laura hopes to help teens understand how using THC can harm them.

Topics include:

- Meet Johnny Stack – Who Was He?
- Define the Terminology: Cannabis, Marijuana, Hemp, Delta-9, Delta-8, THC, CBD
- Understand THC Potency – “Then” vs. “Now” Marijuana
- Learn how THC is Extracted and how Concentrates are Made in a Lab
- Learn how THC Gives Users the High Feeling by Mimicking Natural Endocannabinoids
- Understand how THC Impacts Adolescent Brain Formation and Function by Binding to CB1 Receptors
- Review the Dirty Dozen Impacts of THC Use on the Teen Brain
- Uncover the Research Between Teen THC Use and Mental Illness, Psychosis, and Suicidality
- Practice What do To and Say When Offered THC at a Party
- Consider the Science When Making Decisions for Yourself in the Future

This non-scary, non-sad presentation was developed in consultation with doctors on Johnny's Ambassadors Scientific Advisory Board. The program provides age-appropriate prevention education and does not show photos of drugs. It is not political or anti-legalization. The goals include reducing the intention to use marijuana as a teen, increasing the perception of harm for brain development, and refusing THC when offered by friends. You can learn more about Laura's presentation at <https://johnnysambassadors.org/speaking>.

Research consistently shows that teens who learn about the risks of drugs are less likely to use substances than teens who report learning nothing about the risks. We are committed to preventing the use of THC products in our school. If you wish to opt your student out of this presentation, << do this >>. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

<< Educator Signature Block >>