



Dear Parent:

Summer break is just around the corner for your teen! That means more free time, later nights, hanging with friends, and fun activities. It also means an increase in crashes and fatalities among teen drivers. In fact, summer is the deadliest time for teen drivers between the ages of 16 and 20. One of the main reasons is because teens drive 44 percent more hours each week during the summer (23.6 hours) than during the school year (16.4 hours). As a parent, you can help ensure that this fun time is not spoiled by careless driving mistakes.

The school's YOVASO Safe Driving Club is participating in a Spring and Summer Safe Driving Campaign to help inform you and your teen about this serious issue. Attached to this letter are parent tips designed to help keep your teen safe. Also attached is a summer driving contract that outlines rules for summer driving. You can sign this with your teen or use it as a guideline for writing your own teen driving contract.

The key areas to be aware of are the dangers of "cruising" and "joyriding" with friends and overloading the car with teen passengers. These conditions lead to a "party" atmosphere in the vehicle, causing distractions for the teen driver. In addition, speeding and staying out later at night are top factors in summer crashes involving teens.

As your teen(s) are heading out the door this summer, please remind them to buckle up and be responsible with their choices. Driving is a privilege that parents can take away. With your help, we can lower the teen fatality rate in 2008!

Best wishes for a safe and happy summer,