

## Teenage Years 10: Parent's Meeting Summary

### Specific Points:

- All teenagers feel like they are invincible like Superman. The “S” on their chest is usually what gets them into trouble.
- At some point, our society decided that we don't want parents to raise kids; we want the government to do it.
- Let your kids get into trouble for the little stuff (like “Minor in Possession”). Hopefully this will prevent them from getting into trouble with the big stuff. Immediately rushing to their rescue for every little thing creates the impression that “Mommy & Daddy can take care of everything, so I don't have to worry about what I do.”
- The only time anyone under 21 is allowed to even possess alcohol is when they are given alcohol in their home by their parents. *Any other time is illegal.*
- Texting while driving is illegal in Georgia, regardless of age. Talking on your cell phone is illegal for drivers under 18 years old.
- Vandalism is pointless, but it gives parents a great opportunity to be the parent. Punishment for this should be swift and strong because it is a sign of things to come. If parents react strongly to this, it helps kids avoid the bigger things.
- The statistics regarding marijuana usage among teenagers is staggeringly high.
- “Spice” or “K2” is a new synthetic marijuana that recently became banned in Georgia. It resembles incense, but it is a drug.
- Students need to carefully watch their drinks. It is very easy for a person to drop a “rookie” in it without their knowledge.
- It is ok to test your kids or drugs, *but only when it is appropriate*. Testing them at inappropriate times causes a lack of trust.
- A large number of teenagers are engaged in some sort of sexual activity which has led to a large number of teenagers with STD's. Abstinence prevents STD's and all other sex-related issues. Students should know that when they sleep with someone, they sleep with everyone that other person has ever slept with.
- Anyone under the age of 16 can not legally consent to sex, no exceptions. This goes for both genders, not just females.
- FaceBook is a treasure trove of information for parents. Use it! Parents should have access to all of their kids FaceBook accounts and should log on as their child to see what they are doing.
- Become familiar with your children's' friends parents and family. Don't hesitate to call other parents to verify your child's location.

### General Principles:

- “Be the parent!” Don't let the law determine your parenting standards. The law should be the bare minimum of what it is expected.
- Don't waste your bullets on more minor issues in your teenagers life (like cussing on Facebook). Use your bullets on the big items, rather than the little concerns.
- Aim for building character (what you do when no one else is looking) in your students. Use the opportunities to teach them so that they can learn from their mistakes.
- Be an active parent who knows your kid's friends and their parents so you can help and support each other.
- Be consistent in your parenting and stand your ground when necessary.
- Be willing and able to receive a call from other parents. Be willing and able to call other parents as well.
- Teach your children that all actions have consequences, both good or bad. Parenting means helping kids make good decisions.

\*\*Disclaimer: This summary is simply the thoughts and opinions of Mike Fennema. Any errors or inconsistencies are my own. Any points regarding the law should be personally researched and verified.