



Information for Parents and Caregivers
about the 2nd Act performance:
I'll Never Do That

All Shawsheen Valley Technical High School freshmen will be attending a play about substance use prevention presented by 2nd Act, a collective of artists in recovery on Tuesday, April 29th in the SVTHS auditorium. *I'll Never Do That* shows how substance use disorder is a family disease, affecting everyone. The major focus of this play is how families cope with the effects of substance use disorder.

After the performance, the actors share their personal stories, followed by a talk back session with the students. Students will be encouraged to talk among themselves, with their teachers, and with you, about the issues raised. A resource list for teens and parents will be given to the teachers, who will distribute them to the students.

If you prefer that your child not participate in this presentation, please send an email stating you want to opt-out your child to Angela Caira at acaira@shawtech.org with OPT-OUT of 2nd Act on the subject line of the email. Please include your child's first & last name in the email. All OPT-OUT emails must be received on or before Monday, April 28th at 2:04 PM to ensure we honor your request. We cannot guarantee that we'll see opt-out emails after 2:04 PM on 4/28.

What you can do to follow-up with your child

You can play an active role in supporting your children through the teenage years when they or their friends may be experimenting with alcohol and other drugs. We would encourage you to use this program as an opportunity to have a conversation about alcohol and other drug use in our community. Think about a few issues you may want to discuss regarding alcohol and other drug use. For example, you might:

1. Ask about their impression of the program. What did they see? How did it make them feel?
2. Listen to what your child has to say and try to follow their lead. What did they find interesting about the presentation? What did they find troubling or surprising? (Often students are most interested in the life experiences of the actors.)
3. Ask them if they identify with any of the characters or if anyone they know is like someone in the play.
4. Take time to discuss whether there is a history of addiction in the family. What are your boundaries around drinking and other drug use? Make sure they know they can come to you if they or someone they know is using and they need help. Continue to check in with them and make sure they know that you're not going to judge them. This doesn't mean there aren't consequences for use but understanding and support needs to be the focal point.
5. Discuss the Good Samaritan Act, or talk about Naloxone, getting picked up from a party if people are drinking and driving or having a "safe" word if they need help at a party.



6. If needed, remind your child that there are [local resources](#) in addition to those on the lists provided. Encourage them to contact a guidance counselor, school psychologist, school adjustment counselor, a teacher, a coach, a relative or a religious establishment for further support.

If you have any questions about the program or wish for your child not to participate, please reach out to the school guidance counselor. Thank you!