

Red Ribbon Week Campaign Begins

Posted by [TBN\(Staff\)](#) On 10/23/2019

Leonardtown, MD - October 23, 2019 - Red Ribbon Week is celebrated each year from October 23-31. The Red Ribbon Campaign, sponsored by the National Family Partnership, is the oldest and largest drug prevention program in the nation, reaching millions of young people. It is an ideal way for communities to unite and take a visible stand for a drug-free lifestyle.

Children of parents who talk to them regularly about drug use are 42% less likely to use drugs than those who don't; however, only a quarter of teens report having these conversations. This year's theme, "Send a Message. Stay Drug Free", encourages parents to take this opportunity to start the conversation about avoiding drugs. By discussing a drug-free and healthy lifestyle at home, at the dinner table, and at family outings, parents can make a positive influence on their children.

"Our Behavioral Health team will be joining several of the St. Mary's County Public Schools this week to provide fun and impactful drug prevention activities," said Maryellen Kraese, Prevention and Outreach Supervisor at the St. Mary's County Health Department. "We encourage parents to use this opportunity with their children to discuss ways to avoid drug use should the situation arise."

Visit www.smchd.org/prevention for resources and help to have these conversations with your kids.

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