

# Medford High School

489 Winthrop Street  
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*Empowering All Students to Reach Their Potential as Learners*

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RE: Letter of Reference for **End Distracted Driving**

As the Headmaster of a High School, I am in the position of finding inspiring and educational presentations for each of the grade levels. These opportunities provide a level of enrichment that supports, and occasionally exceeds, the formal academics.

In the fall of 2013, I had the opportunity to view an amazing presentation. In conjunction and collaborations with the Massachusetts Academy of Trial Attorneys and our state and local representatives, Joel Feldman and Diane Anderson brought their End Distracted Driver presentation to our school. Joel and Diane lost their daughter, Casey, to a distracted driver in 2009. In their talk, they appealed to students and adults alike to consider what a few seconds could do to the lives of so many people. It was without a doubt, one of the most impactful hours of the entire year. We have since asked them back every year with the same results.

The presentation was developed with the help of pediatricians and researchers at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and has been highlighted by the Governor's Highway Safety Association as one of the most effective for teens.

These presentations have been a wonderful combination of thought-provoking conversations, videos, student participation, and quality information sharing – all for free! The trial lawyers who have given the presentations are very effective communicators, talking with the students, and empowering them to make safer decisions and never once talking down to or lecturing students. The feedback from students and staff has consistently been excellent. On a personal note, every year after the presentation, I have walked away with a renewed passion for life, and for making incremental changes in the way I live and drive.

I strongly recommend that schools and other organizations engage in this influential assembly; please contact me if you are even considering it. I'd be happy to describe in greater depth the many ways in which it has impacted our school and community.

Sincerely,



John Perella  
Headmaster