



KITTATINNY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to offer my sincere recommendation for the distracted driving and defensive driving presentation I recently had the opportunity to bring to our students.

From the moment the presentation began, it was clear how real and authentic the speaker, Joel Feldman, is. The students immediately connected to his honesty and vulnerability, which set this presentation apart from others they may have experienced. This was personal, genuine, and deeply impactful.

One of the most powerful components of the presentation was the discussion surrounding a mother's reaction to the loss of her child. That message resonated strongly with our students. Many shared afterward that hearing the emotional aftermath for a parent made the consequences of distracted driving feel real in a way statistics never could. Several students commented that it caused them to reflect on how their choices behind the wheel affect not only themselves, but their families and loved ones as well.

The repeated reinforcement of defensive driving strategies was another strength of the presentation. The speaker did an excellent job emphasizing awareness, responsibility, and proactive decision-making — skills that are essential not just for experienced drivers, but for new drivers as well. Importantly, the presentation also highlighted how passengers play a role in safety, empowering students who may not yet be driving to still make responsible choices and speak up when needed.

As a teacher, what stood out most was the level of student engagement. Students were attentive, reflective, and eager to discuss the message afterward. The presentation sparked meaningful conversations that continued beyond the session itself, which is exactly what educators hope for when inviting a speaker into their school.

In addition, we had the privilege of welcoming Joel back to our school this year to present to our junior high students on the dangers of distracted driving. Providing students with the knowledge and skills to develop safe passenger behaviors before they reach driving age is an invaluable opportunity that can have a lasting impact. Following Joel's presentation, students were highly engaged, motivated, and eager to adopt positive habits that will contribute to safer decision-making behind the wheel in the future.

I would strongly recommend this presentation to any school considering a program on distracted driving and defensive driving. It is relevant, emotionally impactful, and beneficial for all students — current drivers, soon-to-be drivers, and passengers alike.

Please feel free to reach out if additional information would be helpful.

Sincerely,
Jessica DeMartini
Health/Physical Education Teacher

Kittatinny Regional Board of Education
"Imparting Knowledge That Works for Our Children"
Sussex County's First Star School