

## **Letter from the Principal: “Be The Influence” at Tam District High Schools**

Dear Parents,

For several years in the Tam District, we have continued our efforts to promote the health and safety of students with our “Be The Influence” (BTI) campaign, an alcohol and drug prevention program. Started at Redwood in 2010, this program was adopted by Tam and Drake High Schools over the past two years. Additionally, this Fall, BTI will be adopted by The Branson School and Marin Catholic and San Domenico High Schools who will maintain their own separate BTI programs.

BTI encourages all parents to commit their best efforts to prevent underage drinking and other drug use in their homes by routinely taking simple measures, outlined in the “BTI” Commitment (on the reverse side of this letter.) To date over 1,500 families have signed the Commitment. Our BTI efforts were highlighted in the May 2013 Marin Magazine article entitled, “Under the Influence”. If you haven’t already read this candid, insightful article about the unacceptably high rates of underage drinking and drug use here in Marin, it may be viewed at <http://digital.marinmagazine.com/marinmagazine/201305#pg53>.

Each Tam District parent who signs this Commitment is added to our Tam District “BTI” Parent List, posted on a special password protected page on each school website and on a new website at [www.betheinfluencemarin.com](http://www.betheinfluencemarin.com). The list contains contact information of participating Tam District parents; only those who sign the Commitment have access to this valuable resource. When your teen tells you they are going to a new friend’s house, this list will tell you if that family has signed the Commitment. It will also facilitate contact with the friend’s parents and encourage communication and connection within our community.

As we get ready for the 2016-17 school year, please consider joining the growing list of “BTI” families in the Tam District. If you signed the Commitment last year, there is no need to do so again, but we encourage you to review and update your contact information and add any new students such as freshmen. I look forward to continuing, with you, to “Be the Influence” in our students’ lives.

If you have any questions, please contact [marinbti@gmail.com](mailto:marinbti@gmail.com). Thank you and enjoy the rest of your summer.

David Sondheim  
Principal, Redwood High School

### **How to Join the “Be The Influence” Campaign**

If you would like to join other Tam District BTI parents in keeping our students healthy and safe, please review the Commitment on this website and input your information online at the redwood website or at [www.betheinfluencemarin.com](http://www.betheinfluencemarin.com). You will then receive instructions and a password to access the BTI List through the two websites.