

Infographics

2013 KSPA REGIONAL CONTEST

Assignment

Using the information provided in the story below, design an infographic that is 5 inches wide by any depth. Entries should be computer-generated and may incorporate graphics to enhance the design. The graphic may be submitted in color or black and white, and should be printed on 8.5 x 11-inch paper.

Survey of students shows risky behavior

A survey of Ad Astra students last May indicates that 16 percent of AAHS students said they have considered suicide, while another 70 percent say they are stressed out.

"That concerns me immensely," said Principal Emmylou Harris. "I think stress is one of the issues that through a lot of education, we can help students redirect their stress."

The survey was conducted in May and reported to the school this week.

In April the Aspera Unified School District approved a request for the high school to administer the survey every two years. Under a Kansas State Department of Education's Safe and Drug Free Community grant, money comes into the district in exchange for statistical data on students. An Aspera research company, Kansas Surveys Inc., developed and administered the survey, using a popular Centers for Disease Control model as an outline.

Students were asked a variety of questions that involved drug use,

sexual activity, safety issues, mental health and self-esteem. The "Youth Risk Behavior Survey" is voluntary and confidential. Of the more than 850 students in grades 9-12, 715 took part.

Health teacher Diana Krall, who heads the high school's School Health Advisory Council, echoed Harris' concerns about stress and suicide.

"I was concerned about the stress levels in particular," Krall said. "There are a lot of other risk factors that may happen due to stresses — substance abuse, suicide, eating problems - all those things relate to stress and stress management. It jumped out at me as a place that we need to impact, a place where we could look and give them strategies on dealing with stress and school."

While some of the numbers raised an eyebrow or two, nothing was a complete shock, authorities said.

"I wasn't surprised at all," Klein said. "My experience is that kids will share some of the risky behavior

Description

You are a staff member of Ad Astra High School's The Star. Your newspaper is a monthly with the next edition to come out March 17. Your editor has asked you to create an infographic for the attached story, using charts, graphs or other visual elements to tell the story presented by the data you gather.

School Info

Name: Ad Astra High School
Location: Aspera, Kansas
Mascot: Box Turtles
Enrollment: 850 (grades 9-12)
School Colors: Green & Gold
Yearbook: The Honeybee
Newspaper: The Star

Contest Info

This is a carry-in contest.

Please attach your assigned contest number in the upper right-hand corner on the back of your photo.

Do not put your name on the entry. If you do, your entry will be disqualified.

Students are not to request help or advice from anyone other than the KSPA Executive Director. All work must be that of the contestant.



they experiment with. We don't usually see it in print."

Harris said while the survey gives officials some inside information, nothing seemed out of the ordinary to her.

"I'm not surprised by the statistics that I saw," said Harris, a former health coordinator and teacher. "But for me, if even one student has a problem with drugs or alcohol, then it's certainly a concern."

Krall agreed.

"I think we're doing really good," she said, "but, if we have one or two kids who have a plan for suicide, we need to address that. We need to impact that."

A sampling of the results shows that:

- Current alcohol use, meaning consumption of booze in the last 30 days, was at 20 percent among ninth-graders, growing steadily to 27 percent, 36 percent and peaking at

43 percent by 12th grade.

- Marijuana use also grew grade-by-grade but in smaller numbers. In ninth grade, 12 percent smoked pot in the 30 days before the survey, with that number rising to 21 percent by senior year.

- In the sexual behavior category, percentages were comparable with state numbers. Overall, 36 percent of the students who took the survey reported that they've had sex — 8 percent lower than the state's average of 44 percent. In this category, numbers grew by grade as well, with 25 percent of ninth-graders saying they had sex at least once and 53 percent of seniors reporting a sexual experience. Statewide, 61 percent of high school seniors say they've had sex at least once. At Ad Astra, 63 percent of all students who said they had sex also reported using condoms.

"Our role is to give them an understanding so they know

the consequences for that risky behavior," Krall said. "We cannot be there to tell them no to taking that drink but we give them the opportunity to understand what could happen should they choose to drink, or smoke marijuana, drive with a drunk driver, have sex without a condom. There are things we might not be able to impact but we're giving them the opportunity to understand the consequences of their actions."

With results in hand, the question is not what students are doing, but what the school's going to do about their behavior. One way Harris approaches the issue is to look at the other side of the statistics.

"It's important to remember that if 24 percent of our students are involved in some activity, it's just as important for me to flip that statistic to the other side and say, 'That means 76 percent of the kids are not.' Let's look at the positive side," she said.