



LAKE COUNTY NARCOTICS AGENCY

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P.L.U.S. Parent's Guide Lesson 1 Introduction to P.L.U.S.

This lesson introduces your child's P.L.U.S. Officer to the class. The officer introduces the acronym P.L.U.S. (Peers Learning Usable Skills) and explains that the purpose of P.L.U.S. is ...To learn skills that are helpful and usable while dealing with one's peers (friends). The P.L.U.S. slogan is "*The POWER of ONE*".

As the classes' progress a two-pocket P.L.U.S. folder will be developed. This folder will be an integral part of the P.L.U.S. lessons and will be necessary during each class to help with your child's participation. **Parent involvement with most of the homework assignments is part of the program.** Not only do we encourage parent involvement and discussion throughout all of the P.L.U.S. homework assignments, but the research is clear "Parents who speak frequently with their children about serious issues have the greatest success in their child not becoming involved in that issue." A parent signature on each homework assignment is necessary for students to receive full credit for the work done. At the end of the P.L.U.S. program the folder will contain helpful information that can serve as a reference and a building block for future family discussions.

P.L.U.S. Rules

1. **During class discussion please do not identify people by name, and only share information that feels comfortable to you.** We ask the students not to mention first names, for example ... "my Uncle John ..." or ... "my step-parent ...". Instead we ask the children to use wording such as ... "someone I know ..." or ... "a kid I know ...". In this way questions and concerns the students bring up don't turn into story telling or rumors.
2. **No put-downs or bullying.** We want all students to be able to ask questions and participate in class without the feeling that they are stupid because they don't know an answer. We also want the students to communicate with each other in a positive manner, being more open to allow others to have his/her own opinion. By putting other people down a negative and defensive arena is created and closes the door to positive communication. Bullying will not be tolerated and will be turned over to the teacher and principal.
3. **If a student misses a P.L.U.S. class: we now have a web site where Assignments and Parent's Guides can be downloaded: WWW.LAKECOUNTYOHIO.GOV/LCNA/.** In order to access the P.L.U.S. homework and Parent's Guides, you will need to log in to the site (top right-hand corner). The lesson link will become available once the lesson is taught. Your child's teacher may have a copy of the P.L.U.S. homework and Parent's Guide, **but it is not up to the teacher or the P.L.U.S. officer to make certain the student has made-up the assignment – that is up to the STUDENT.** The main reason for this is that we want the students to become responsible for his/her actions (or lack thereof).

Your login to the P.L.U.S. webpage will be:

Username: _____ Password: _____

4. **Graduation requirements from P.L.U.S.** In order for students to graduate from P.L.U.S. it will be **necessary to complete homework assignments**. A student failing to complete 4 or more homework assignments will not be eligible to graduate. In addition to the homework requirement each student is required to **write a final paper** about what they learned in P.L.U.S. Failure to write a final paper will keep a student from graduating.

Introduction Letter

The introduction letter your child brought home was read out loud in class and each paragraph was discussed. Some high points of P.L.U.S. for parents are the *Student/Parent homework assignments* and the *Parent's Night* program. One purpose of the Student/Parent homework assignments is to spark discussions on various topics between students and their parents. The students are a bit apprehensive about the idea of doing homework with mom and dad. We explain to the students that mom and dad have all gone to school, have all had to do homework, and would have liked some help from their mom and dad on occasion with homework. We try to get the students looking forward to discussing and doing homework with mom and dad.

Parent's Night is an evening program developed to speak with parents/caregivers about what is being taught during P.L.U.S. We will talk about current trends in adolescent drug use, some helpful suggestions on how to help your child be more resistant to drug use pressures, and the foundation of P.L.U.S. - *Asset Development*. We have had great response from parents who have attended the *Parent's Night* programs offered by the Lake County Narcotics Agency over the past 21 years.

Student/Parent Homework (Week 1): *FYI: The P.L.U.S. officer does not collect the homework. The officer checks to make sure the homework is completed and is signed by parent/caregivers. During class discussions the students are not required to share answers from the homework out loud.*

Please sign and return the Introduction Letter your child is bringing home this week from P.L.U.S. This introduction letter gives you information about the P.L.U.S. program.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your child's P.L.U.S. Officer, at 440-350-3315 or myself at the Lake County Narcotics Agency, phone 440-350-3302. Please visit our new web site since it is updated constantly with new drug information, community events, and Parent Night dates at WWW.LAKECOUNTYOHIO.GOV/LCNA/.

Sincerely:

Officer Willis

Officer George "Pat" Willis, M.ED.
Lake County Narcotics Agency
Community Drug Education Supervisor