

Career Tech Matters

by Dennis Franks • Oct. 28, 2016

Pickaway-Ross' MADE club roared into existence last week with nearly 200 students choosing to commit to a drug-free life.

MADE, a Drug Free Clubs of America chapter, includes all of the Ross County schools and each school is reporting similarly high numbers.

Drug Free Clubs of America was founded by three firefighters in the Cincinnati area with the simple premise of providing teens with incentives to *not* take drugs.

The incentives can be freebies or discounts. BW3, for example, is giving discounts to club members.

Other incentives have been tickets to school events and some schools have created preferred parking for MADE members. At Pickaway-Ross, Jamie Nash approved letting MADE members who are drivers leave early.

"The key to combatting the drug problem is by changing the culture," said Jamie, who was among school administrators and community members invited to a session in 2015 to create MADE (My Attitude Determines Everything).

"That so many of our students have stepped up to be a part of the club shows that the culture is already changing."

Kim Graves is our school coordinator for the program and has been collecting applications and



setting up the drug-testing days.

Last week's initial testing went smoothly thanks to his organization and with the help of Polly Compher, Mindy Frejkowski, Allen Koker, Katt Marriott, Rhonda McGuire, Holly Smith and Tammy Sutherland.



Teachers can help, too, by offering incentives to students. Some suggestions from Kim are a free homework pass per nine-week period, getting to leave lab or class 5 minutes early for lunch one day and offering students bonus points toward their grade.

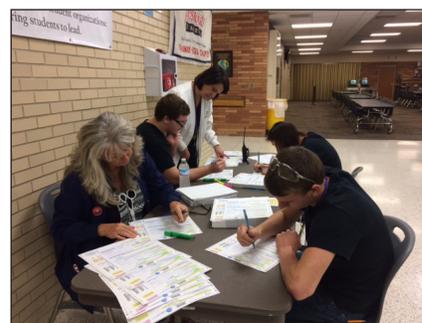
If you have other ideas, let Kim know.

This is a great collaboration among Ross County students and the benefits of young people vowing to avoid drugs will be felt far outside the county.



More than 200 students applied to be in Pickaway-Ross' MADE drug-free club chapter, taking a voluntary drug test last week.

Dennis Franks is superintendent of Pickaway-Ross Career & Technology Center. He can be reached at dennis.franks@pickawayross.com.



Katt Marriott and Mindy Frejkowski were among the staff members who helped students with the club application process.