



city of
South
Milwaukee

Police Department
ANN M. WELLENS
CHIEF OF POLICE

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The South Milwaukee Police Department and South Milwaukee High School have recently been dealing with an increased number of prescription medication incidents, in both the community and the school setting. The SMPD and SMHS acknowledge that the abuse of pharmaceuticals is a serious health and social problem. This letter is to inform you, the parent/guardian, of this growing problem in our community and our schools. It is our hope that you will help us combat this problem.

Prescription medications are readily available to our children. Most of us, who have prescriptions, keep them in the medicine cabinet where anyone can take a few pills without anyone noticing. Because this is a growing problem in our community and schools, the SMPD and SMHS would like to not only inform you of it, but offer some ideas as to how you can work with us to address this present problem.

People are prescribed medications for health reasons, whether it is physical or psychological. If you currently are taking prescription medication, we ask that you store the medication in a place that is not readily available to your children. Keep track of how many pills you take, and how many should be in the bottle. If your child is currently taking medication, keep track of how many pills he/she should take, and how many he/she has taken. If your child needs to take medication during school hours, the medication should not be on his/her person or in his/her locker. Instead, medications should be stored in the school's main office and distributed by a staff member.

The SMPD has a Medicine Collection Program for those who have left over prescription medications that won't be used or are expired. The SMPD will accept pharmaceuticals (between the hours of 8 :00am to 5 :00pm Monday through Friday) from any South Milwaukee resident. Those pharmaceuticals will then be disposed of properly without harm to our environment. Please see the SMPD website for further details (www.southmilwaukeepd.org).

The abuse of pharmaceuticals is a serious health and social problem. Working together as a community, we can overcome this problem. If you have any questions or concerns about this issue, please feel free to contact the South Milwaukee Police Department or the South Milwaukee High School.

Sincerely,

Chief Ann M. Wellens
South Milwaukee Police Dept.

Superintendent David Ewald
School District of South Milwaukee