



# East Brunswick High School



*Achieving Excellence with Honor and Integrity*

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East Brunswick High School will host a parent/teen safe driving presentation titled “Share the Keys” on **September 10<sup>th</sup>, September 24<sup>th</sup>, October 15<sup>th</sup> and October 29<sup>th</sup>**. The presentation will be held at the H.S. Auditorium from 6 pm-7 pm. The event is sponsored by NJM Insurance Company in partnership with the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission, EBPD and the EBHS PTSA. The research-based course is specifically designed to educate parents of teen drivers about New Jersey’s Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) laws and emphasizes the importance of parental involvement as teens learn to drive.

Motor vehicle crashes remain the leading cause of deaths for teens in the U.S. with an average of 4,000 each year. Parental involvement plays a key role in reducing teen driver crash risks. In fact, the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia Center for Research Injury and Prevention found that teens whose parents set rules and pay attention to their teen’s driving activities are half as likely to be involved in a crash.

Share the Keys brings parents and teens together, empowering them with information, resources and tools to cultivate safe driving attitudes and behavior.

Led by trained facilitators, the program is designed for parents and their teens in the pre-permit or permit state of licensure (parents and their teens already holding a probationary license will also benefit).

The orientation has five key objectives:

- *Understanding the Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) laws* –The GDL is the most effective tool in reducing teen driver crashes, injuries and deaths. It’s imperative that both parents and teens fully understand the law in order to benefit from its lifesaving restrictions.
- *Being a Good Role Model* -- Researchers have found that teens mimic their parent’s driving behaviors. Parents can effectively reduce their teen’s crash risk by adopting safe driving practices such as obeying the speed limit and avoiding distractions.
- *Effectively Enforcing the GDL at Home* – Forty percent of all fatal crashes involving teen drivers occur after 9pm and teens with just one passenger have nearly twice the risk of being involved in a fatal crash than those who drive alone. By enforcing these two restrictions of the GDL parents minimize their teen’s exposure to crash risk.
- *Increasing Practice Driving Hours* – During the first 12-24 months of driving, teens are at the greatest risk of being involved in a crash. Since crash risk decreases with driving experience, it’s crucial that parents fit in at least one hour per week of practice driving with their teen driver.
- *Sharing the Keys* -- Research by CHOP revealed that teens who requested permission to use the car were half as likely to be involved in crashes when compared to teens that had primary access. Parents can establish a verbal contract with their teens by asking them where they are going, who they are going with and when they will be back.

Share the Keys was developed to assist the parents of permit and probationary drivers on the intricacies of the GDL laws and to offer positive tips on how to coach their teen during the driver training process. **This year EBHS is requiring all students that drive and park on school campus to attend this presentation with a parent or guardian. Therefore, in order to keep or get a parking permit one of these four evening presentation must be attended.**

**Although designated for current seniors, all students and their parents are welcome to attend. Those sophomore and junior students will satisfy their requirement when applying for a parking permit in their senior year.**

*Excellence in Academics, Athletics, and the Arts*