

February 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

For the past few years, Ginger and Larry Katz have presented to our student body at Fordham Prep to rave student, faculty and administrative reviews. Their audience has consisted of 250+ high school freshman boys in an assembly-style, 90-minute presentation.

Initially, the freshman counselors in the Guidance and Counseling department were a bit concerned about the effectiveness of this kind of lecture-style, lengthy format to 13-14 year-old boys. However, any hesitations we experienced prior to their first presentation went unfounded; Ginger's recounting of her son's tragic descent into alcohol and drug addiction was riveting for the boys from the beginning to the end. This was evident by their total attentiveness during her presentation and their thoughtful questions that were posed to both her and Larry at the end of their talk. In addition, the presentation fueled dynamic classroom discussions and an opportunity for further questions and education in the classroom guidance lessons that followed.

The messages, facts and personal experiences that Ginger and Larry shared were exactly what we, as educators and counselors, wanted the boys to know and understand. For example, they addressed the insidious and sometimes brutally progressive nature of adolescent drug addiction, the signs and symptoms of problematic use, the role that enabling plays in the process of addiction, and the devastating consequences that may result. Their compassionate, loving and urgent delivery of their tragic story struck an emotional chord with the boys and, that is exactly what we believe facilitated their attentiveness and willingness to ask questions and engage in lively discussions.

We recommend Ginger and Larry Katz without the slightest hesitation. They have become critical staples of our comprehensive Guidance and Counseling program, and we welcome any further discourse via phone (718-367-7500) or email.

Sincerely,

*Maureen Martinez*

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