

The Franklin County Interdisciplinary team has taken a proactive approach to improve teen driver safety in Columbus, Ohio. As a component of their participation in the PHTSI, the team works with high schools students to prepare them to be leaders in traffic safety. Involving students in this initiative has increased morale and brought awareness to

the importance of wearing a seatbelt.



One school in particular, Franklin Heights High School (FHHS), incorporated their school mascot into developing the slogan- “Real Falcons Buckle Up”. The logo and slogan has been imprinted on t-shirts for student council members. Students wear shirts on designated days and pass out traffic safety messages to their fellow students. A mural of the logo was also painted in the school hallway to emphasize

the importance of seatbelt use and to display the schools support for such a worthy cause.

The traffic safety awareness messages are complemented by activities conducted at the school such as presentations from Grant Medical Center’s Think Twice, Choose Life Program. These sessions are held during health classes and will educate students on various health topics including seatbelt use. The FHHS Annual Quest games, which are outdoor competitions among 9-12 graders, will now include a seat belt challenge. This relay activity will reinforce the ease of putting on a seat belt.



FHHS students have created two super heroes called Traffic Teen and Safety Belt Boy and they are charged with promoting safe and responsible driving. Student council is educating students and parents on Ohio’s Graduated Driver’s Licensing. This dialogue between students and parents will help to clarify the guidelines and restrictions for newly licensed drivers. Overall this effort has brought awareness to traffic safety, and demonstrates a collective effort towards reducing traffic related deaths and injuries.

