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National Presenter Tim Rader Addresses Jericho Students and Parents

By Denise Nash

On Nov. 1, the Jericho Wellness Coalition held an assembly for national presenter Tim Rader and his program *Live To Tell* at Jericho High School.

Tim grew up in Pennsylvania and was the quarterback for his high school football team as well as a good student. After being diagnosed with cancer at 17-years-old, he began taking prescription medication to manage his pain. This was the start of his addiction, although it didn't surface until after college.

Rader spoke to Jericho's tenth and 11th graders about addiction and the importance of abstaining from all chemical substances. He took the students through the horrors he suffered and stressed that he did this to show them how drug addiction can rip apart your family and ruin your life.

Rader met with several Jericho students after his presentation with hopes that they will take his message and continue to spread it throughout the school year.

"Tim did a great job connecting with our students," said high school principal Joseph Prisinzano. "They listened intently and continued the conversation even after he left."

Rader returned that evening to talk to parents. "Be a parent to your children and discuss the dangers of drugs and alcohol," said Rader. "Don't be a friend to them. They have enough friends. They need a parent."

The Jericho Wellness Coalition was formed last year to promote safety and wellness for Jericho children and families. The group's fall event, which included the Tim Rader presentation as well as displaying a car that was involved in a car accident as a result of the driver texting and driving, was a success and the coalition is working on plans for the next event.



Tim Rader (back row, third from right) meets with Jericho High School students after his presentation.