In conjunction with the Newark Police Department’s participation in the statewide “Empty Chair Campaign” April 20-24th, students at Newark High School were reminded of the consequences of such things as speeding, distracted driving, not using seatbelts, underage drinking and impaired driving.

In 2014, the Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee launched “The Empty Chair” campaign to prevent accidents involving teen drivers with the ultimate hope of keeping every senior’s seat occupied at graduation in June.

The Newark Police Department participated this year with a week-long initiative that focused on a different traffic threat each day.

Each morning on the school announcements NHS students learned what specific violations Newark Police would be on the look-out for that day and what fines, for the various infractions and attorneys fees, if applicable, could cost.

Also, NHS Prevention Counselor Nicole Rineholtz and Karen Cline, who teaches health, invited Deputy Bill Benedict from the Wayne County Sheriff’s Department to speak to health classes April 21st about the consequences of driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs.

According to figures from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, 2,524 teenagers between ages 13 and 19 died in motor vehicle crashes in 2013 in the United States. The fatal crash rate, per mile driven by 16- to 19-year-olds, is nearly three times the rate for drivers ages 20 or older.