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10-30-15
Period 3

There is something everyone of us students share in common at GHS. It's not that we all live in the town of Gorham or even that we all spend 7 hours out of the day together we've all been affected by driving under the influence. October 19th, 2014 the Junior class of Gorham High School lost a classmate, we lost our superman. Brandon Denis a star football player was what some would say the quite secret of Gorham. Brandon was a nice kid who kept to himself and got the job done whether it was a promise to a friend or a play of the football field.

Brandon was taken away from us too soon due to some poor decisions of an individual. The entire week following the death of our classmate the school was very quite. Small classes and lots of tears were shed. The entire atmosphere of the school felt different. The guidance counselors visited each class Brandon was in and checked in with us also offering to meet with anyone who needed to talk.

Unfortunately GHS isn't the only school affected by driving under the influence. Underage drinking is one of the biggest causes of teen death. In 2013, 10,076 people died in drunk driving crashes. That's one every 52 minutes. The average drunk driver had driven drunk 80 times before their first arrest.

Motor vehicle accidents are the main cause of teen deaths from the ages 15- 20, drunk driving is the cause of one in every four of those accidents. About 5,000 teens die from alcohol-related injuries every year according to the U.S. Surgeon General. That's 5,000 high school's, families, friends, and communities affected by drinking and driving. So what have we learned? This is something I've struggled to wrap my head around. The stupid decisions people make when they are under the influence, teens and even adults still choose to drive under the

influence. Do they not see or understand what their late night cruise could potentially end up with the death of either themselves or in our case Brandon.

It's been a year now and our school & community is still struggling with the loss of Brandon. It's doesn't get any easier,he isn't anyone you would forget about. His smile brighten up a classroom and his laughed tickled everyone. You learn to live without them but you never forget them.