Editorial: Facing consequences at Eden Prairie High

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Students, parents get a lesson in personal responsibility.

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This just in: Some high school students drink alcohol and, in the Internet age, some underage drinkers are foolish enough to post party photos on popular websites. In the case of [Eden Prairie](http://www.startribune.com/topics/places/eden-prairie.html%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) High School vs. the partying Facebook students, we give administrators credit for their judgment and flunk the students on common sense.

Similarly, any parents considering taking legal action because they think the school went too far in disciplining students need a reality check. Teen drinking remains a serious problem in this state, and Eden Prairie administrators deserve praise -- not legal threats or complaints from parents -- for taking decisive action that they knew would be controversial. Face it, parents, the Facebook kids screwed up, and here's a chance to talk about personal responsibility in the context of an underage drinking escapade that, thankfully, did not involve death or injury.

Go to the search field at [startribune.com](http://startribune.com/) and type in these names: Jenna Foellmi, Rissa Amen-Reif, Amanda Jax and Brian W. Threet. In the past four months, these four young people all died in drinking-related incidents in Minnesota. Brian's funeral was Thursday afternoon in Farmington.

With that backdrop, protests over invasion of privacy are ridiculous. School administrators weren't surfing social networking sites without cause. They received a complaint and had a responsibility to investigate and act according to school policies. Students who think the Web has been used against them unfairly should fast-forward a few years and consider how they'll feel when a potential employer uses Facebook or MySpace in a background check, with a job offer on the line.

Some are viewing the athletes among the students who were caught red-cupped in Eden Prairie through a surprisingly sympathetic lens. That's wrongheaded. The Minnesota High School League requires student-athletes and their parents to pledge that the students will abstain from alcohol and illegal drugs. Break the pledge, lose the privilege.

We were encouraged by the reaction of Eden Prairie High School parent Larry Burke, whose daughter was not involved in the drinking incident. "The posting is very foolish,'' Burke told the Star Tribune. "But from a perspective of a parent, I'm glad it happened. There are a lot of discussions going on in a lot of households about alcohol and consequences.''

Let's hope other parents bring as much common sense to those conversations as Burke.