Coram, NY - Students at Mount Sinai High School learned how dangerous operating a motor vehicle can be while driving distracted and with their abilities impaired in a safe environment on October 24th inside the school's gym. The Brookhaven Highway Department's Division of Traffic Safety provided electric cars and used traffic cones to set up two driving courses. One course students used to experience how dangerous texting and driving is, and on the other course teens drove with special goggles to see how their vision is influenced in a harmful way when driving impaired.

The Highway Department's Division of Traffic Safety partnered with the Celebrate My Drive Powered by State Farm Program, Education & Assistance Network, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Office and Cox Media Group 106.1 WBLI to organize this event.

"Motor vehicle accidents are the number one cause of death for teenagers in America," said Daniel P. Losquadro, Brookhaven Superintendent of Highways. "It is absolutely imperative that we prevent young drivers from developing bad habits before they even start and this program does just that."

"When you can teach students through a hands-on, interactive experience, what they learn will stay with them and help develop strong driving habits," said Robert Grable, Principal at Mount Sinai High School. "This program really teaches students first-hand the dangers of texting and driving while impaired."

"This program helps develop strong driving habits at a young age," said Stephanie Sgroi, an Agent for State Farm Insurance in Port Jefferson Station who handles accident claims. "We appreciate the Brookhaven Highway Department's support in this very important initiative."

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