Dear [School Name] Parents,

June 21 marks the first day of summer, a time when many of our children are out of school, spending more time at home and at the homes of others. It also marks <u>ASK (Asking Saves Kids) Day</u>, which as a supporter of <u>Brady</u>, I'm writing to ask you to observe.

As parents, we ask all types of questions before our children visit other homes. ASK Day is when parents, guardians, and caretakers are reminded to add one more question, "Is there an unlocked gun where my children play?"

In the United States, <u>4.6 million children</u> live in homes with access to an unlocked or unsupervised gun. Every day, <u>eight kids</u> are unintentionally injured or killed as a result of "<u>family fire</u>," which is a shooting caused by someone having access to a gun when they shouldn't have it, including children as well as those who display behavior that indicates they could harm themselves or others.

Evidence <u>shows</u> we can protect students and children by encouraging gun owners to practice safe firearm storage. That means storing firearms locked, unloaded, separate from ammo, and inaccessible to children. According to one study, locking all household firearms could reduce firearm suicide and unintentional firearm fatalities among youth by up to <u>32%</u>.

Gun violence is now the <u>leading cause of death</u> among children and teens in the United States. Asking, "Is there an unlocked gun where my child plays?" could save a life. Please visit <u>bradyunited.org/ask</u> to learn more about how you can ASK in your community and visit <u>endfamilyfire.org</u> for tips on how you can practice safe firearm storage.

Sincerely, [Insert Your Name]

