



**HIGHWAY SAFETY  
CHALLENGE**

**Video:** *Brooke Hammill, Varina High School student, at lectern*

**Audio:** “Do you talk on your cell phone while driving? Do you put on makeup? Do you change your CDs while turning out of the parking lot at the end of the day? Or worst of all, do you text while driving? All of us know these are dangerous driving habits but most of us think that nothing bad will ever happen to us. But car accidents do happen when we’re distracted while driving.

My friend and classmate, Ashley Leeper, died in a car accident on April 27, 2007 coming home from Chowan College for the summer. The driver went off the road, over-corrected and ran into a tractor trailer. Ashley was a fun and talented person who always kept me laughing. She was 18 years old, and then in an instant, she was gone. Her family is devastated, her friends miss her dearly and her dreams will never be fulfilled.

A terrible accident can happen to you. Your life and the lives of others can be drastically changed forever. Simple things like buckling up, obeying the speed limit and driving defensively without getting distracted can save your life and your family from the same terrible loss that Ashley’s family and friends are going through today.”