



HARRISON HIGH SCHOOL
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Summer 2018

Dear Parent,

Harrison High School, along with 39 other secondary schools in Westchester County, is continuing a Student Assistance/Project SUCCESS Program for the 2018-2019 school year. This program is funded by the NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services through the Westchester County Department of Community Mental Health, the school district, and by corporate and private donations. The program will provide alcohol, tobacco, vaping, and other drug prevention activities and counseling services to students including early identification of students experiencing, or at high risk for, substance related problems, and students involved in bullying situations and problem gambling. It is anticipated that this combination of services will accomplish the following goals:

1. prevent the development of alcohol, tobacco, and other drug abuse among students
2. reduce the incidence of alcohol and other drug related problems among students
3. improve school performance and attitudes toward school among program participants

Dana McCarthy will serve as the Student Assistance Counselor at Harrison High School. She will be working full time in the district and will have evening hours available to see parents and meet with community groups. Ms. McCarthy is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with previous experience working with adolescents, and specialized training in prevention and early intervention strategies with adolescents at risk of having substance or gambling related problems. She is being paid and supervised by Student Assistance Services Corporation and the school.

Ms. McCarthy will be meeting with students individually and in small groups for education and prevention activities to correct erroneous perceptions about substance use and to teach students skills to identify and resist social and situational pressures to use substances. Parent meetings corresponding to our prevention program will also be offered. Ms. McCarthy will be available to see students who are using alcohol or other drugs, vaping, gambling or have personal, peer, school, or family issues that could lead to substance abuse, including involvement in bullying situations. If you would like to speak to the Student Assistance Counselor about your child or another student, please call her directly at 630-3145. All calls will be confidential.

This year, Ms. McCarthy will also provide the eight session Substance Abuse Awareness Program as an alternative to suspension for students who are vaping or under the influence of alcohol or other drugs at school or school sponsored activities.

We are hopeful that these programs will show promising results. Data will be collected to assess the overall effectiveness of the program in preventing and reducing risk factors for alcohol, tobacco, other drug use, and problem gambling.

Please feel free to call me if you have any questions about the program.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Beukema
Principal

Safety Tip: Please monitor the use and storage of all prescription and non prescription medications in your home to reduce misuse by youth. Unused medications can be returned at the White Plains Police Department, 77 South Lexington Avenue, White Plains, NY 10601, 914-422-6400; the Rye Brook Police Department, 938 King Street, Rye Brook, NY 10573, 914-939-1020; Rye City Police Department, 21 McCullough Place, Rye, NY 10580, 914-967-1234; or the Port Chester Police Department, 350 North Main Street #1, Port Chester, NY 10573, 914-939-1000.

