

CLARKSTOWN COMMUNITY TASK FORCE

Introduction

The Clarkstown Community Task Force was founded by the Clarkstown Central School District in February 1997 as a community-based response to the results of the 1996 PRIDE Survey. The survey was administered again in 1999 and 2002. Utilizing the results of the PRIDE Survey for guidance, the charge to the Clarkstown Community Task Force is to formulate a comprehensive approach aimed toward the reduction in use of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana and other drugs by minors and to provide a safer environment within our community. The Task Force is comprised of three sub committees - Parent/Community Outreach, Safer Homes/Safer Schools and Student Alternative Activities.

Representatives from all aspects of our community, including students, are involved and anyone interested in participating is welcome. There are four general meetings of the Clarkstown Community Task Force annually and the three subcommittees meet independently during the year. For further information please call 639-6415.

Parent/Community Outreach

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One of the major findings in the survey was that communication between parents and their children was lacking. Furthermore, the community was not sufficiently aware of some of the issues, such as alcohol, tobacco, drugs, binge drinking, inhalants and alcohol poisoning that impact our youth. In addition, there was a need to work as a community on issues such as teen parties, host liability and limiting the sale of "illegal" substance to minors.

The Parent/Community Outreach committee continually seeks ways to raise awareness levels and to provide opportunities for the community to meet and discuss these important issues with specialists. They work cooperatively with other groups in Clarkstown and Rockland to advance their goals.

Safer Schools/Safer Community

E/ M/ H/ P/ S

Another statistic concerned perceptions of safety. The Safer Schools/Safer Community subcommittee has sought to find and implement methods to equip our students and the community with skills to reduce conflict and create a safer environment. One of the major goals is to train students, parents, business and community members in conflict resolution, peer mediation and violence prevention and empower them to identify signs, symptoms and patterns of antisocial behavior and teach them positive, alternative behaviors. A follow up survey indicated that there is a lack of information on available resources in our schools and community. The subcommittee is working to address this as well as seeking out additional programs that will enhance those already in place.

Student Alternative Activities

M/ H

The PRIDE Survey indicated that our youth refrain from "questionable" activities during the school day. It is after school, evenings and weekends when the majority of undesirable behaviors are evident. The Student Alternative Activities subcommittee concentrates its efforts on planning and implementing substance free evening and weekend activities, which mitigate boredom and provide positive alternatives to alcohol and other drug abuse. This subcommittee consists of students, staff and community members from Felix Festa Middle School, Clarkstown North High School, Clarkstown

South High School and Nanuet High School. In addition to planning activities, the committee is working with the Town of Clarkstown Recreation to expand activities offered by them and to establish a teen center for Clarkstown.

Teen Parties: Truth, Consequences and the Law

M/ H/ P

"Teen Parties: Truth, Consequences and the Law" is the first video production undertaken by the Clarkstown Community Task Force in an attempt to raise awareness on civil and criminal liabilities as they pertain to underage drinking and parties in your home or on your property, when you are home and when you are out. The video was produced cooperatively by the Clarkstown Central School District, the Clarkstown Police Department and Clarkstown Justice Court, utilizing the talents of the Rockland Players. A police department representative and a Judge speaking to the topic follow the short video production. An opportunity for discussion and question and answers completes the program.

Project Void/Alcohol Poisoning Impact Panel

M/ H/ P

"Project Void" is a video, written and produced by the students and community of Peter's Township, PA. It generally covers the issue of underage drinking with a focus on host liability, binge drinking, alcohol poisoning, and driving under the influence. The six-minute video ends with personal reflections of a former Clarkstown student, Jonathan Leano, whose older brother, Matthew, was a victim of alcohol poisoning. An impact panel comprised of Mrs. Maxine Leano, Matthew's mother, a Clarkstown police officer, a town judge and a member of the local ambulance corp. relate their personal experiences and answer questions following the video presentation. Due to scheduling difficulties, all members of the panel may not be available. Every attempt to provide appropriate personnel will be made.

Choices

M/ H/ P

The video production, "Choices", is the story of three youngsters - each having made different decisions about the use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. They speak candidly about those choices, how it affected them, their families and their lives. The video provides some up close and personal information regarding the reasoning behind a young person's choices - to use or not to use, and we hope that it provides a "springboard" for initial or continued discussions on the subject. By keeping the lines of communication open and honest, adults can help young people to make the "right" choices. In addition to the video presentation, qualified personnel facilitate a question and answer session.

*Choices that have been made are not always the choices that are adhered to. The possibility exists that some choices made by the students in this video have changed since it was produced.

Choices II - A Choice Not To

M/ H/ P

This is the latest in the Clarkstown Community Task Force video production series. So often teenagers are depicted as using alcohol and other drugs giving the perception that "everybody" does it. The reality is this is not true. This video was produced to show just that and to act as a catalyst for communication and involvement between parents, their children and between students themselves. Interviews were held with students from North and South High School who had made the choice "Not To" use alcohol and other drugs. They were asked why they had made these specific choices. It was not scripted or rehearsed.

Networking for Prevention

E/ M/ H/ P

One of the largest factors in prevention is the raising of awareness. The aim of Networking for Prevention is to bring information on such topics as bullying, binge drinking, alcohol poisoning, designer drugs, inhalants and marijuana directly into the home. It provides prevention strategies for all age groups, 'plain talk' discussions of "popular" illegal substances and their effect on behaviors, conflict management techniques, follow-up resources for assistance and additional information, to cite a few examples. By providing parenting assistance, information and resources, and generally raising awareness, risk factors are reduced and protective factors are enhanced. "Networking" is produced through volunteer efforts. If you are interested in helping, please contact Joanne Pensabene at netvent@optonline.net.

Senior Transition Workshops

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"Life After High School" is a program designed and implemented by the Guidance Departments of Clarkstown North and South High School in cooperation with members of the Clarkstown Community Task Force. It is designed to address the issues, situations and questions that our students will be confronted with as they graduate and go on to college, into the workforce or into the service. Students are offered nine workshops from which they select three. They are: Partying 101, Dating Dilemmas, How to Work Smarter Not Harder, How to Succeed in the Working World, \$\$\$\$\$ Money Management, Living with Others, Finding Your Niche, The Pros and Cons of Commuting to School and the Body Trap. Information from each workshop as well as pamphlets and brochures covering pertinent topics are given to each student.

Clarkstown "Prom-ise"

H/ P

Events such as Homecoming, Junior Ball and Senior Prom provide the opportunity for our students and parents to hire private car services, buses and limousines. In an attempt to raise awareness and seek (unity) partnership within the community, the Clarkstown Community Task Force has developed voluntary contracts between students, parents, and limousine/car/bus services that establishes a set of expectations (parameters) by which all will abide. Contracts are sent out annually to all and a listing of those companies completing the contract is distributed twice yearly.

Driving Impact Panel

H/ P

Offered through STOP-DWI of Rockland, educational programs geared toward teenagers are customized to meet school needs. They are designed to increase awareness and promote the message that the consumption of alcoholic beverages, or any other "drug" and driving can be deadly. The program takes approximately fifty minutes and is presented by certified educational consultants.

Victim Impact Panels are also held four times a year at the Fire Training Center in Pomona. The panels of victims speak briefly about drunk driving crashes in which they or a loved one were injured or killed. For more information on either program contact the STOP-DWI office, 638-5095 or the Clarkstown Community Task Force 639-6415.

Drug Awareness Training/Drug Impairment Training for Educational Professionals

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This is a nationally validated training program provided by the New York State Police. This program provides school personnel with a systematic approach to recognizing, approaching and evaluating individuals in the academic environment who are using and are impaired by drugs, in order to provide early intervention. A secondary training is provided to school nurses in the administering of a standardized assessment tool.

Safe Homes

H/ P

Safe Homes is a program designed to facilitate communication between parents who sign a voluntary pledge to provide a supervised, SAFE and substance-free environment in their homes. A directory of supporting participants is distributed annually. For more information, contact the Clarkstown Community Task Force at 639-6415.

Adopt A Class

M/ H

The literature in health education clearly notes the significant positive affect of peer-to-peer interaction. The message of positive health attitudes, behaviors, choices and decisions is very influential when high school students speak to middle school students. This is a cooperative effort between the school district, the police and students from North High School, South High School and Felix Festa Middle School. High school students who volunteer receive two-hours of training prior to their presentations.

These senior high students volunteer their time after school and travel to Felix Festa Middle School to present lessons regarding alcohol, tobacco, other drug prevention and violence prevention. The high school students meet with the 6th grade teachers to discuss their presentation each week. Some 7th and 8th grade classes are also participating. The entire program lasts about 10 weeks.

Parent to Parent

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This is a special networking program for parents to meet in a small setting, possibly at a designated home for a series of three meetings. These parent-to-parent meetings are facilitated by experienced professionals with the sole purpose of developing strategies, techniques and methods of communicating with their children about the harmful effects of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. One of these three meetings will include a Clarkstown police officer who will demonstrate and discuss various drug "trends" among our youth. This setting is very conducive to helping parents meet and network with other parents.

BCL Solutions

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After a presentation to the Board of Education in 1996 of the results of the Pride Survey (Alcohol, Tobacco, Other Drugs & Violence Survey), a recommendation was made to have an outside agency evaluate each of the school buildings in the Clarkstown Central School District.

BCL Solutions, a private consulting firm, was hired to develop a comprehensive program to evaluate and assess each school and help implement safety plans for students and staff in each school building. In addition, they worked with students and staff on conflict resolution. BCL Solutions has also provided

the required staff development for planning and executing mock disasters and the establishment of building and district safety teams.

This plan, developed by the Superintendent, was initiated in 1997 and has provided training for 15 buildings and the district safety team as of 2002.

If you have any questions, please call The District Health Coordinator at 639-6495.

Internet Safety

E/ M

This is a special presentation to parents by the Clarkstown Police and the Clarkstown Community Task Force, demonstrating procedures, strategies, and programs available to parents to help them monitor and protect their children when using the Internet. For information call 639-6415.

CLARKSTOWN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Supportive Services

Office of Pupil Services

The Clarkstown Central School District offers a full range of compensatory and special education programs and services for all its students with special needs. The goal of the Office of Pupil Services is identified in the district's commitment to address the unique needs of its students and to provide each with an appropriate education. Assistance is provided through psychological services, speech, special education, occupational therapy, physical therapy, compensatory education, health services, and English Language Learners.

In recent years special education has shown the most growth within the department. There are currently thirteen categories for classification in New York State.

In 1984 the district took an innovative step by expanding its special education services to include Rise West, a private school for students with learning and emotional difficulties. Upon its inclusion in the Clarkstown Central School District in 1984, it was renamed The Birchwood School. This program continues to serve students with behavioral and emotional needs who require a small, structured environment.

The district also serves non-English speaking (or limited English speaking) students with an ELL (English Language Learners) program. It prepares these pupils for successful mainstreaming into the regular school curriculum. For additional information call 639-6475.

Child Study Team

E/ M/ H/ P

Child Study Teams provide a vehicle within the school building for meaningful discussion concerning how best to meet students' needs. Staff members typically serving on the Child Study Team might include an administrator, a school psychologist, a guidance counselor, the student assistance counselor, the presenting teacher(s), a speech teacher, a remedial reading teacher, the special education teacher(s) and a nurse. Interventions such as remedial support and program modification are usually determined through discussion at Child Study Team meetings.

If it has been determined that an evaluation is necessary, the school psychologist will usually meet with the parents to obtain informed consent and discuss due process rights. A referral to the Committee on Special Education for possible special education placement will typically be completed by the school psychologist before the evaluation takes place. Upon completion of the evaluation, results will be shared with the parents and the Child Study Team.

Psychological Services

E/ M/ H/ P

School psychologists and student assistance counselors regularly provide individual and group counseling services. While the services provided by school psychologists and student assistance counselors have been listed separately, except for mandated counseling, many of the counseling services listed below are provided jointly by school psychologists and student assistance counselors. For further information, call 639-6392.

Counseling Conducted by School Psychologists

E/ M/ H

School psychologists see students for counseling individually or in small groups. The focus of these groups is to help students with anxiety, fears, and behavioral issues so they can benefit more fully from their educational experience. Counseling can be either mandated by an Individual Education Plan (IEP) for students who have been classified as having a disability or it can be provided as an educationally related support service (ERSS) for students who have not been classified but are in need of counseling to address specific concerns.

Mandated Counseling

E/ M/ H

Students are seen individually or in small groups to address specific needs noted on the IEP. Groups consist of no more than five students and are often limited to two, three or four students. Social skill building is an additional component of mandated counseling groups.

Educationally Related Support Service Counseling (ERSS)

E/ M/ H

Students are seen individually or in small groups to address specific identified needs that have been observed. Social skills building is an additional component of ERSS counseling groups.

Crisis Intervention

E/ M/ H/ P

Crisis Intervention services are provided by school psychologists and student assistance counselors whenever a crisis of any nature that could affect the emotional well being of students occurs.

Referral Services

H/ P/ S

Referral Services to help students and parents find needed resources in the community are provided by school psychologists and student assistance counselors. Student assistance counselors serve as liaisons with various community agencies.

Counseling Conducted by Student Assistance Counselors

E/ M/ H/ P

Counseling Groups for Students

E/ M/ H

Student assistance counselors conduct counseling groups in all of our schools. These groups vary in name but are basically social skills groups, support groups, or discussion groups. The groups may be formed to address general issues, such as learning how to have friends or more specific issues, such as

learning how to adjust in a new country or learning how to cope with loss. Through role playing, group activities, problem solving and improving communication skills, children can learn to understand that while they cannot always control a situation, they can cope with it. Students are told that all information shared in the group is confidential in nature. This encourages them to share and receive support from their peers. While the names of the counseling groups vary from school to school, the goals are basically similar. Descriptions of some of the counseling groups that have been formed are listed below:

Discussion Groups

E/ M/ H

Discussion Groups are formed to provide students with the opportunity to meet and talk about issues affecting their age group. Typical names for these groups are Discussion/Rap Groups, Boys Group or Girls Group. With older students, topics might include relationship issues, eating disorders and substance abuse.

Social Skills Groups

E/ M/ H

Social Skills Groups focus on teaching the members to share, to verbalize feelings, to learn how to have friends, to be good listeners and caring members of the school community, and to increase self-esteem. Typical names for these groups are Friendship Groups, Meet and Eat Groups (conducted during lunch), and I Am Special Groups.

Support Groups

E/ M/ H

Support Groups are formed around a specific need such as learning to adjust to a new country, dealing with a loss, or dealing with divorce, separation or chronic illness. Typical names for these groups are New Americans' Club, New Students' Group, Living with Loss, and Changing Families Groups.

Classroom Presentations

E/ M/ H

Classroom presentations are made regularly to make students aware of the counseling services available to them and to address a variety of issues such as substance abuse prevention, violence prevention and suicide prevention. The student assistance counselors take a leadership role in providing these services.

Parenting Education

E/ P

Parenting Groups held during the daytime or evening provide parents with guidance and a forum for discussion on topics such as sibling rivalry, positive discipline, communication skills, and transition into the middle school.

Parenting Workshops held during the evening provide parents with information on various topics. Workshops on bullying are being conducted as an evening program in several elementary schools.

SUPPORT GROUPS (for additional information call 639-6392)

E/ M/ H

Anger Management Group

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Clarkstown North High School has an Anger Management Group, which is a cognitive/behavioral group in which causes and consequences of acting out feelings of anger are explored. Skills for preventing and controlling behaviors resulting from anger are provided. Personal issues that drive feelings of anger are shared and discussed.

Conflict Resolution Groups

E/ M

Conflict Resolution Groups are formed for students who have been identified or who identify themselves as bullies or as victims of bullies. Through structured, guided activities, the students learn about the characteristics of bullies, are taught peaceful alternatives to aggression, learn how to manage anger in more appropriate and acceptable ways and learn how to be assertive rather than aggressive.

Divorce/Separation Groups

E/ M/ H

Support groups are formed for students whose parents have separated or divorced. This group explores issues for students whose parents have separated recently, as well as those who divorced many years ago. Living situations, visitation issues, substance abuse, peer relationships and academic concerns are some of the issues addressed.

Drug Intervention Groups

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Our Drug Intervention Groups are voluntary groups for students who wish to reduce/eliminate their own substance abuse. Behaviorally oriented, and various other methods for achieving personal goals of reduction are presented and members discuss progress towards their goals. Recovery, reduction and zero tolerance interventions are also utilized. Referrals to AA, NA and treatment facilities/agencies are encouraged. Early and advanced groups are offered.

Girl's Support Group

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South High School's Girl's Support Group is a safe, supportive environment where girls can share experiences and obtain support from their peers on a variety of issues, including dating, parents, academic and emotional concerns.

Middle School Transition Workshop

E/ P

This is a group formed for students who would benefit from additional support and guidance as they transition to the middle school. A variety of activities and materials are used to help the student learn how to read and understand a schedule, learn how to find key locations, and become familiarized with middle school rules, procedures and expectations. Social skill building is also incorporated into the goals for this workshop.

Multi-Cultural Groups

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Multi-Cultural Groups are formed for discussing personal and cultural experiences of being a minority in a large population. Discussions of issues related to self-esteem and personal involvement in addition to issues of assimilation and cultural identity preservation, are encouraged.

Non-Violent Crisis Intervention

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Nonviolent Crisis Intervention is a safe, non-harmful behavior management system designed to aid educators and staff in the management of disruptive and assaultive behavior. The program philosophy is to provide the best care, welfare, safety and security at any given moment to the individuals in your charge, even in violent moments. The program begins by clarifying basic elements of violent behavior.

It proceeds to identify how a crisis may escalate and conversely de-escalate. Participants will learn to recognize warning signs that allow for early intervention, plus tips on how to use verbal and nonverbal techniques to avoid a violent confrontation. Participants will learn to use safe physical intervention procedures, including when to restrain and transport the acting-out student.

Parent Support Group for Hearing Impaired Students

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A monthly support group for parents of hearing impaired students has been developed. The group is educational and supportive by design.

Senior's Group

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This group is designed to assist seniors who are experiencing anxiety about leaving high school. Topics explored include the choice of college, work (or both), leaving home and living on your own, establishing new relationships, expectations for the future (self, parents, friends) and stress management.

Stress Reduction Groups

E/ M/ H

Stress Reduction Groups are open to all students who are experiencing a significant amount of stress in their lives due to academic or personal issues. Relaxation techniques are explored. Students providing and receiving support from peers also is explored.

Student Alliance for Equality Club

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Student Alliance for Equality Club was formed by students to promote tolerance and acceptance of all students regardless of race, religion or sexual orientation. This group addresses issues of racism, anti-Semitism and homophobia. The club members make classroom presentations and participate in assemblies, Diversity Day, community events and other such activities.

Tobacco and Substance Abuse Prevention Groups

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Tobacco and Substance Abuse Prevention Groups are formed to provide students with accurate information about the dangers and consequences of the use and abuse of illegal substances. There is also a focus on teaching and reinforcing refusal skills.

Tobacco Education Group

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This group is offered as an alternative to consequences for students caught smoking for the first time at North High School. The Tobacco Education Group offers students the opportunity to learn the dangers and negative consequences of tobacco use and it also encourages students to move closer to quitting. After students successfully complete the group, they are invited to join a school-based smoking cessation program.

TRUST

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TRUST is a friendly, confidential, safe group for youth to discuss issues of sexual orientation and gender identity, gain interpersonal skills and information about adolescent topics, and enjoy themselves. Each year about 50 young people attend. Most members are in high school. Some come for

themselves, others come to support their friends. Meetings are held weekly in Rockland County, and special events are held throughout the year.

The co-facilitators are professionals, usually teachers or counselors, who are experienced in working with youth and knowledgeable about lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues. They are supervised by a group work professional. There are no fees.

TRUST is not a therapy group of any kind. Anyone needing assistance for therapeutic issues will be appropriately referred. Information and resource lists are available for youth to give to parents and guardians.

Email Alex at useralex4272@yahoo.com.

Young Women's Group

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The Young Woman's Group is designed to facilitate discussion of issues that face female adolescents. Topics explored are self-concept, values, relationship issues (family and peers), dating, violence and eating problems.

SPECIAL SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Anti-Bullying/Conflict Resolution/Violence Prevention Program

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The Clarkstown Central School District has established a conflict resolution program aimed to teach students problem solving techniques and develop anti-bullying skills. This program varies depending upon the needs of each building. The Conflict Resolution program targets third, fourth and fifth grades. This program focuses on teaching student effective problem solving steps using activities that teach mediation skills. Teachers are encouraged to reinforce these mediation skills throughout the school year.

The anti-bullying program targets third, fourth and fifth grades. Through discussion and viewing of videos students learn to recognize signs of bullying and teasing, its emotional impact, and the importance of reporting bullying incidents. Some K-2 classes have also requested that bullying and teasing be addressed. Parenting classes on this topic will be offered throughout the year.

Birchwood Program

E/ M/ H

Birchwood School is a special education day school providing education using a therapeutic model for students with emotional disabilities and behavioral concerns. The school provides a highly structured and individualized school program and incorporates remediation and behavior modification. The Birchwood School is for students, ages five through twenty-one, whose disabilities require a special education setting and related services to meet their unique management, academic, physical, and social needs.

Teams of professionals from various disciplines, including psychiatric, psychological, social work, crisis intervention, guidance, and nursing, provide ongoing diagnostic and therapeutic services. Frequent and regularly scheduled communication among teachers, clinical staff and the principal, allow for an effective and uniform response to the ever-changing needs of the students. The openness of

communication enables the staff to function as a cohesive treatment team in order to provide each student with the vital intervention necessary for positive changes in behavior.

An extensive range of clinical and school services includes individual, group and family therapies and art therapy. Each student receives individual therapy with a clinician at least once a week. This direct psychotherapeutic treatment supports the student in resolving conflicts, encourages appropriate ways to respond to the demands and expectations of the world, and promotes the development and strengthening of the student's relationships with staff, peers, and family members. The school offers after school socialization groups and a 12-month educational program.

The Committee on Special Education must refer students to the Birchwood program. For more information, call 353-4510.

Birchwood School - Evening Activity Night Programs

E/ M/ H

The Birchwood School initiated new and innovative evening programming which is offered numerous times throughout the year. The goal of these programs has been to provide each child with an opportunity to "go out" on a Friday night with his or her peers, while receiving appropriate supervision. It creates an avenue for the children to socialize with peers in a structured, supportive and supervised atmosphere. Each program is geared for specific appropriate age levels and has included a barbecue night, obstacle course, tie dying, sports activities, such as basketball and volleyball, music, and ample time for socialization. Staffing has been primarily on a volunteer basis. Students have clearly enjoyed and learned a great deal from this opportunity. For further information on this program contact Mr. Art Jakubowitz, Principal or Dr. Marc Rauch, Program Director, at 353-4510.

GED Program

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The Clarkstown Central School District offers a comprehensive GED program for students who have not completed the requirements for a high school diploma. Classes are small in size and focus on preparing each student for the exam within a twelve-week period. Students are instructed utilizing a variety of methods including class lecture, small group work, and individual instruction.

Classes meet four times per week for three hours each night to meet the New York State requirement as an approved program. The admission process begins with the high school guidance counselor. Students may be 17 and 18 years old for the Alternative High School Preparation Program (AHSEPP) and 18 and 20 years old for the High School Equivalency (HSE). Students are given an examination upon entrance to determine whether skills are at a 9.0 grade equivalency or below.

Students who have left the Clarkstown Central School District without obtaining a high school diploma and are between the ages of 18 and 20 may enroll in the program at no cost. Call 639-6475 for additional information.

G.E.M.I.N.I. (Guided Education for the Motivation and Inspiration of Notable Individuals)

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The Alternative Education Program serving North and South High Schools, provides a home base for students who have not experienced success in the mainstream. It is a program designed for students of average or above-average ability who are capable of attaining an academic diploma. The program is housed at Clarkstown South High School.

The philosophy of GEMINI is that each person is a person of importance, worthy of respect, regardless of past academic performance. Becoming a member of the GEMINI family means that a student is ready to 'reach for the stars,' to explore their inner potential. GEMINI focuses student's goals, and helps them to see how their actions today affect those goals in a very real way.

Student Program Focus

The program is designed to meet the needs of disenfranchised and dissatisfied students of average ability who are at risk of dropping out of school or are just barely getting by. Students are of average or above average intelligence and are on, or close to, grade level in their academic skills. They are emotionally/behaviorally stable and are motivated to attain a high school diploma, but require additional support, structure and alternative learning situations to attain this goal.

This program is designed for students in grade 10-12 whose current performance does not coincide with measurable ability levels or past achievement. This is not a remedial program, but rather a Regents level program that offers individualized support and academic attention in a smaller setting to students who:

- need and want a home base;
- demonstrate irregular attendance patterns;
- have experienced seemingly unwarranted failures;
- present low self-esteem;
- are at risk of dropping out;
- need to develop within themselves a feeling of responsibility;
- have been unable to compete in the larger high school and need a close knit, nurturing, stimulating environment with structure and monitoring where they can receive individualized attention;
- are motivated to experience academic success and make positive changes in their life.

Courses offered are designed in accordance with state and local curricula guidelines. A guidance counselor or teacher may refer students to the program, or students may refer themselves. Interested students can obtain a brochure from their Guidance Counselor, who can assist them in applying, if appropriate.

Students are admitted as a result of a Child Study Team meeting at which all the options for an improved educational plan are considered.

The S.A.I.L. Program (Structure, Attitude, Individuality, Learning)

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In the recognition that the Clarkstown Central School District strives to fulfill the unique needs of its students, the Board of Education has established an alternative program of instruction at the North High School campus. The S.A.I.L. Program serves a limited number of students who have shown evidence of need not present in the general student body.

S.A.I.L. is not a special education program. It is, however, an approach proven to serve the varied and complex needs of today's adolescents. In a collaborative effort teachers and counselors provide a learning environment conducive to the individuality of the students in the program. Emphasis is on the

development of the academic, social, and emotional potential of the student outside of the restrictive parameters of traditional bells and schedules.

The uniqueness of such an approach is heavily reliant upon the consistent and nurturing support of parents, the personal commitment of the individual student, and the flexibility of the school personnel to both find and utilize various methods to accomplish the goals of the program. Those goals reflect the adopted standards of the New York State Board of Regents and the local initiatives of the Clarkstown Board of Education. It is anticipated that students will complete their high school program and continue onto higher education or succeed in their chosen avocation.

Unique Components of S.A.I.L.

1. Staff and Class Size - Two teachers serve no more than twelve students. Average class size is six or less allowing for an individualized approach, the building of teacher-student rapport, and the supervision of daily progress.
2. Psychological Services - A school psychologist is an integral member of the instruction team providing counseling and consultation on a regular basis. A part-time psychiatrist is made available to help fulfill the support and structure for the individual student. One dedicated Guidance Counselor, familiar with all aspects of the program, provides service to all students regardless of grade to assure both continuity of direction and the appropriate continuum of courses for graduation.
3. Administrative Support Service - A single Assistant Principal is designated administrative advisor to clear obstacles, mesh school and program objectives, and follow through on occasional behavioral concerns.
4. Parental Involvement - Communication between the school and parent is on a regular basis to assure needed support and commitment from the home to create the learning environment that is the core of all student success.

Roles - Obviously, limited numbers carry a responsibility. All - students, parents and SAIL staff - will strive to create a cooperative venture that will lead to assured success.

Application - If you feel that you as a student are in need of such a learning approach, see your Guidance Counselor

Admission - Students will be admitted and remain in S.A.I.L. according to their individual need, available space, and fulfillment of their personal and academic commitment to the program.

CLUBS

Gay-Straight Alliance

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The Gay-Straight Alliance meets with the purpose of providing a forum for gay and straight students to discuss ways to protect the rights and academic well being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and questioning students. Activities have included distributing Safe Zone stickers and information to teachers about the damaging impact harassing language has on students.

Peer Leadership Program at Felix Festa Middle School

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In 1966, Felix V. Festa instituted a Peer Helper Program. Peer Helpers assist new entrants to acclimate to middle school life. They serve as tour guides and assist at orientation and open house. The peer helper program has expanded and evolved into a Peer Leadership program, whereby students are trained in becoming leaders among their classmates. Through the combined efforts of the Peer Leader and Peer Mediator programs, students and staff are promoting the message that a peaceful non-violent atmosphere is of the utmost importance at Felix Festa Middle School.

Peer Mediation at Felix Festa Middle School

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This plan was developed to aid students in addressing, resolving, and managing minor disagreements, disputes, or conflicts such as hurtful words, rumors, cheating, etc., that occur between students. These disagreements can often impede a student's academic growth and success. When young people are in need of assistance, they turn to each other with their concerns and problems. This program provides students with skills that improve their ability to be helpful to one another and their community. Through the mediation process students learn important coping skills that will enable them to self manage and resolve disputes, and hopefully, avoid future disagreements. The foundation of the program is based on confidentiality. The importance of respecting one's privacy is instilled in the students.

SADD

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Students plan and implement various ways of educating and raising awareness regarding drugs/alcohol and other high-risk behaviors. Multiple alternative social activities are planned throughout the school year to give students the opportunity to have fun and socialize in a drug free environment.

Students Against Substance Abuse (S.A.S.A) Club

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Students Against Substance Abuse (S.A.S.A) Club was formed for students at the middle school. This club offers students the opportunity to be pro-active in promoting a drug-free school and community. Club members help facilitate positive alternative activities to drugs for the students at the middle school. Activities such as bowling, roller-skating, arts and crafts, etc. are planned to help promote a healthy and drug-free life.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

CANDLE Programs - Community Awareness Network for a Drug Free Life and Environment

Kids/Teen Connection

E

CANDLE's Kid's/Teen Connection is a prevention program comprised of small groups that meet before or after school. Kid's Connection is offered on the elementary school level and Teen Connection is offered on the middle school level. The groups are formed according to age and meet for one hour a week for twelve weeks.

This popular program helps children increase their self esteem, improve their communication and problem-solving skills, identify feelings and cope in a healthy, non-destructive manner. It also offers

them a private place to discuss their concerns. Trained group facilitators, who are comprised of teachers, student assistance counselors, social workers, and school nurses, create a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. They use puppets, games, videos, stories, and crafts to facilitate discussions and teach skills. Kids are encouraged to socialize, share thoughts and have fun. For additional information, call 634-6677.

Peacemakers/Conflict Resolution

E

CANDLE does a Peacemaker (Conflict Resolution) program in second grade. The goal of the program is to help the children understand the benefits of resolving conflicts peacefully. During the three-session program, the children will learn and practice five steps that can help them resolve conflicts peacefully.

1. Cool Off
2. "I" Message
3. Many Solutions
4. Choose a solution
5. Forgive, thank

In the first session, the second graders are introduced to the puppets, Puff & Roxy, who are having a conflict. During the lesson, the second graders help Puff & Roxy resolve their conflict. The children also learn the CANDLE Peacemaker song. During the second lesson, the children review and practice the five steps used to solve a conflict. They also discuss how to handle their angry feelings and participate in the Angry Day story. In the final session, the children look for Win/Win solutions to conflicts. They also listen to a story about a bully and discuss what to do if a bully is bothering them.

Puppeteers

E/ H

The CANDLE Puppeteers is an exciting peer-to-peer substance abuse prevention program. CANDLE provides training and year-long supervision of students from Clarkstown North and South High School who perform Puppet Theater programs in the spring for all third grade classes. The high school students write scripts designed for third grade audiences and perform such using full-body puppets. The puppeteers establish a special bond with their young audiences while dramatizing themes including divorce, friendship, feelings, peer pressure, bullying, alcoholism and conflict resolution.

VAASA - Varsity Athletes Against Substance Abuse

E/ M/ H

VAASA is a peer-to-peer program in which high school varsity athletes act as positive role models for younger students. They pledge not to use alcohol and to teach the younger students about the dangers of using drugs and alcohol. CANDLE provides both training and supervision to the Clarkstown North and South High School students who are selected for the VAASA program. The program is offered to all 5th and 8th grade classes district-wide. The students speak about the dangers of smoking, chewing tobacco, alcohol and other drugs and spend time answering the children's questions. In addition, they share stories about their experiences, sports and other clubs, and what to expect in middle school and high school.

What's Wrong with Alcohol

E

What's Wrong with Alcohol is a fourth grade CANDLE program. The two-session program is presented in all the Clarkstown schools.

In the first session, the children watch the video, "What's Wrong with Beer?", and learn some basic facts about alcohol and the disease of alcoholism. They also take an alcohol quiz. This quiz is then used as the basis for a discussion about alcohol. The children also watch what happens when "Alcohol Man" drinks alcohol. They learn that alcohol can damage the liver, stomach and other organs.

In the second session the children will be involved in a demonstration showing how alcohol affects a child's body. The children learn about wine coolers and through a comparison of alcohol and non-alcohol bottles they discover some techniques companies use to sell their products. They view the short video, "Big Brother", and then discuss the issue of mixed messages.

Clarkstown Police Department

Community Policing Unit

P

The goal of the Community Policing Unit of the Clarkstown Police Department is to enhance the quality of life for the residents of the Town of Clarkstown. This is being accomplished by addressing certain problems of the town at the community level. The community policing officers attend meetings of the many organizations throughout the town, such as Senior Citizens, Civic Associations, Youth Organizations, Rotary, Lions Club, etc., and learn first hand from citizens what problems they are facing. To solve the problems, the police officers work with numerous organizations including governmental agencies, social agencies and civic groups. Listed below are several of the programs the community policing officers are currently involved in:

- * St. Agatha's Equestrian Program: In conjunction with St. Agatha's Home, the Community Policing Officers are instituting a riding and stable management program at St. Agatha's Home in Nanuet to benefit children of the community.
- * Clarkstown Community Task Force: Officers go into local schools and give presentations on the dangers of alcohol and drugs.
- * Adopt a Class: Officers assist the Clarkstown Central School District to educate and motivate middle school students to prevent substance abuse and violent behavior.
- * Law Enforcement Internship Program: This is a program conducted by the Community Policing Officers for high school students. The students learn first hand the workings of the police department. Some of the activities include police communications and a ride along with a police officer.

D.A.R.E. - Drug Abuse Resistance Education

E/ M

The Clarkstown Police Department was the first law enforcement agency to initiate the Drug Abuse Resistance Program in Rockland County.

In Clarkstown, the D.A.R.E. program consists of a drug and violence prevention curriculum that is presented in two segments:

- * The first is a 17-week program presented in fifth grade in the elementary schools within the township. D.A.R.E. focuses on the development of positive social skills to enable young people to resist peer pressure, which could lead them to become involved with drugs and acts of violence.
- * The second segment of D.A.R.E. is the middle school program. This is presented at the seventh grade level to reinforce the initial D.A.R.E. message with a strong focus on those issues that are unique to adolescents regarding drug use and conflict resolution. This program also highlights the qualities of good citizenship.

Five D.A.R.E. Officers and a Detective Sergeant presently staff the D.A.R.E Office. Clarkstown's D.A.R.E. Program also sponsors a series of extra curricular activities to promote positive alternatives to drug use. These activities are both athletic and cultural, to offer something for all students. D.A.R.E. also has several family based events during the year. For additional information, call 639-5825.

School Resource Officers

M/ H

In 2001, the Clarkstown Police Department entered its second year of the Student Resource Officer (SRO) program. This was a continuation of a pilot program in cooperation with the Clarkstown Central School District started in January 2000. Two specially trained uniform officers are assigned to both Clarkstown North and South High Schools, with each spending an alternating day at Felix Festa Middle School. During these past years, the student resource officers have become an intricate part of the entire school program. The SRO officers have opened the lines of communications and have become an integral part of the whole school procedure. The student officer is truly a resource for school personnel and the students, not only for more traditional police functions such as larcenies, emergencies and car accidents, but also for more complex problems such as domestic violence, substance abuse, and family counseling. In addition, the flow of information between students and the police has increased dramatically. The interaction between the school administrators, teachers, staff and the police officer has resulted in increased savings for all involved parties. Crimes have been solved more quickly and more importantly, crimes have been prevented. With the student resource officer in the schools, fights, drug problems, and other juvenile issues have been quickly addressed. The student resource officer program is strongly associated with the concept of community policing. All associated parties have taken ownership in cooperation with the police department to address specific issues. As the police department and the school district continue the school resource officer program, all indications are the program will continue to be a success.

Youth Court

M/ H

The Town of Clarkstown's Youth Court was established in April of 1981. Youth Court is a court of peers. Juveniles will be tried, judged, defended, and convicted or exonerated by a court compromised of other youths. The Court has guidelines established by adults and a Youth Court Steering Committee. Adults are always available for advice but the youths who are selected to serve on the Court will make the final decisions. Currently there are 71 students and volunteers participating in the program. If you are between the ages of 13 and 16, and a resident of Clarkstown, please contact the Youth Court Office for an application. 639-5834

OTHER COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Family Resource Centers

E/ P/ S

Clarkstown Family Resource Centers are a part of the Rockland 21st Century Collaborative for Children and Youth. They provide a place where families can go to find support, seek information, participate in programs, access services and get to know other parents and children. Programs are developed in response to needs as identified by parents, children, school and community. Family Resource Centers are located in a number of our school buildings. For more information contact Marcy Sacks, Program Coordinator, or Karen Kasman at 638-4110.

PTA (Parent Teacher Association)

E/ M/ H/ P/ S

PTA is the largest volunteer child advocacy organization in the United States. A not-for-profit association of parents, educators, students, and other citizens active in their schools and communities, PTA is a leader in reminding our nation of its obligations to children. They provide an avenue through which parents, along with teachers and school administrators, can actively become involved. The goals of the PTA are to secure for all children their maximum potential in the areas of physical, emotional, social and intellectual development.

In addition to PTA units in each of our schools, the Clarkstown Central School District also includes PTA units for Special Education parents (SEPTA) and the Jesse Kaplan School. Each PTA unit meets monthly and provides within their own school a variety of programs. The Clarkstown Council of PTA's is a representative group of the district's PTA units. They meet monthly to discuss pertinent issues and share information. For more information contact Rhea Vogel, PTA Council President, at 639-1932.

Reality Check

H

Reality Check is a statewide, youth-led empowerment movement that is committed to exposing the truth about tobacco and reducing its use among young people. The activities and projects are designed to help teens address the manipulative, marketing tactics of the tobacco industry and how they target youth. It is funded and supported by the New York State and the Rockland County Departments of Health.

Clarkstown South High School represents one of the many Reality Check teams created throughout the country. Students are encouraged to attend county, regional and statewide youth meetings and summits to increase their knowledge of tobacco, learn valuable leadership, media and advocacy skills, and collaborate with other youth throughout the state. They also gain experience in working with adults in the community to achieve their goals.

Projects have included designing and producing a tobacco awareness brochure, with the assistance of a local marketing firm, which won four national awards, a mentoring training and implementation program presented to elementary and middle school students, participation in national and local tobacco awareness events such as the Great American Smoke-Out, National Kick Butts Day and the Rockland County Youthfest.

For more information contact Shelley Chandler, Tobacco Control Specialist at 364-2502.

Signs, Symptoms & Behavior Patterns of Possible Substance Abuse in Adolescents

The checklist of signs and symptoms listed below may mean that an adolescent has a problem with alcohol and other drugs. When parents and other caring persons in an adolescent's life begin to notice a cluster of these warning signs, they should be concerned and seek professional help. The use of alcohol and other drugs by adolescents can lead to many serious problems - including addiction, injury to self and/or to others, criminal involvement, and even fatality. It is important to act early and as quickly as possible to help the adolescent. There are many local services and agencies ready and willing to help you.

Family Behavior

- * Change in attitude toward rules, parents, brothers and sisters
- * Withdrawing from family functions, i.e. camping trips, church, meals, etc.
- * Isolating (staying in room)
- * Breaking curfew, sneaking out, becoming more secretive, making excuses for late hours
- * Lying, blaming others for irresponsible actions
- * Violence - physical and verbal
- * Erratic sleeping habits; too much or too little
- * Erratic eating habits - extremes
- * Vagueness about company kept and where time was spent
- * Strange telephone calls; parties hang up or refuse to be identified
- * Compliant and agreeable but fails to follow through with promises and agreements
- * Becoming more secretive. Not sharing any or very little of their personal problems
- * Not informing parents of school activities
- * Suspicion of money or alcohol missing from parents/siblings
- * Stealing and/or selling possessions to be hocked for money (clothes, CD's, gifts, etc)
- * Manipulating parents; playing one against the other
- * Seems to have money but no job

Friends and Peer Group

- * Change in peer group with little interest in old friends
- * Parents don't know friends; can't get names or addresses
- * Begins to associate with an older crowd
- * Fighting with peers

School/Academic Achievement

- * Drops out of sports and other extra-curricular activities
- * Disrespect/defiance toward teachers, rules and regulations
- * Frequent suspensions/expulsions
- * Sudden drop or gradual lowering of grades and achievement levels (reasons unclear)
- * Academic failure (sudden)
- * Skipping classes or entire day
- * Present in classroom but inattentive
- * Frequent visits to nurse for various minor complaints
- * Increase in disciplinary actions
- * Sleeping in class
- * Wandering in hallways or on school grounds

- * Frequent trips to the bathroom
- Lack of response to concern expressed by teacher regarding any of above

Changes in Physical/Psychological Condition

- * Easily upset; emotional state changes rapidly
- * Weight changes, drastic loss or gain
- * Odor of alcohol or marijuana
- * Changes in speech pattern, slurred speech
- * More frequent physical injuries
- * Burns on hands or clothing
- * Change in hygiene; using same clothes frequently
- * Withdrawal from peers, staff & family
- * Very defensive
- * Stumbling, confusion, disorientation
- * Changes in sexual behavior (blatant)
- * Brown stained fingertips
- * Hangover; headache, vomiting, anxious
- * Reddened eyes and frequent use of eye drops (to cover up drug effects)
- * Deep nagging cough-dry, persistent
- * Lethargic attitudes, poor motivation, seems to lose interest in many areas
- * Undisciplined, doesn't get things done on time or as agreed
- * Blackouts; has periods of memory loss
- * Sometimes inappropriately happy, sometimes inexplicable depressed
- * Nervous, agitated, trouble sitting still

Religious/Spiritual

- * Decreasing interest in attending church
- * Uncomfortable talking about religion
- * Less hopeful and more cynical in attitude about life

Legal

- * DWI
- * Accidents or near misses
- * Speeding/carelessness on highway
- * Thefts, assaults or other infringements of the law
- * Sales of drugs, alcohol
- * Possession of drugs without medical reasons

Miscellaneous

- * Financial management erratic; seems to spend more money and asks for money
- * Pregnancy; identity of father uncertain
- * Paraphernalia kept; rolling paper, bong, roach clips, magazines
- * Sudden change in slang; "Druggie" behavior observable
- * Uses a lot of profanity

THE PRIDE SURVEY

E/ M/ H/ P/ S

Why Every Rocklander Should Care
Information Provided by the PRIDE Survey

Frequency of Use - The following substances were consumed by Rockland County youth at rates above national norm:

- | | |
|-------------|------------------|
| * Beer | * Inhalants |
| * Marijuana | * Wine Coolers |
| * Liquor | * Designer Drugs |

When are Students Using:

- | | |
|---------------------|-----|
| * Weekends..... | 50% |
| * Weeknights..... | 10% |
| * After School..... | 10% |

* The exception is inhalant use, which is equal day and night, in school and at home.

Harmfulness:

- * 30% of 5th graders
 - * 21.7% of 8th graders
 - * 17.1% of 10th graders
- see beer, liquor, marijuana, and wine coolers as less harmful. Young people underestimate the harmful effects of alcohol, nicotine and marijuana as they get older. When drugs are perceived as harmless, the probability of use increases.

Accessibility:

- * 34% of 5th graders find it easy to get beer
- * 26% of 5th graders find cigarettes easy to get
- * 44% of 8th, 52% of 10th, and 58% of 11th graders find beer very easy to get
- * 24% of 8th, 47% of 10th, and 54% of 11th graders find marijuana very easy to get
- * 42% of 8th, 58% of 10th, and 71% of 11th graders find cigarettes easy to get

Research indicates that easy access to drugs increases the probability of use. Availability of alcohol and other drugs normally increase at higher-grade levels.

Communication:

As students progress:

- * 48% of 5th graders said their parents talk to them about the dangers of alcohol and other drugs
- * 13% of 8th graders said their parents talk to them about the dangers of alcohol and other drugs
- * 11% of 10th and 8% of 11th graders said their parents talk to them about the dangers of alcohol and other drugs

Violence:

While at School in the year 1998-1999

- * 14% of 5th graders have been threatened by a student two or more times

- * 17% of 8th graders have had other students threaten to hit, slap or kick them 2 to 5 times
- * 11% of 10th and 12% of 11th graders have had other students threaten to hit, slap or kick them 2 to 5 times
- * 19% of 8th graders have threatened to hurt a student by hitting, slapping or kicking 2 to 5 times
- * 5% of 8th, 4% of 10th and 4% of 11th graders carried a knife, club or other weapon to school 2 to 5 times

What Can You Do About It?

As a parent you can:

- * Talk often with your child about alcohol and other drugs
- * Set clear expectations with your child regarding drug/alcohol/cigarette use.
- * Maintain an open dialogue with your child, listen and learn what your child thinks and feels.
- * Be a positive role model in terms of alcohol and other drugs, and responding to conflict.
- * Use teachable moments to discuss issues/concerns.
- * Communicate clear and consistent messages by what you say and do.
- * Provide your child with positive recreational opportunities.
- * Be an active participant in your child's world.
- * Get to know your child's current friends - and their families.
- * Educate yourself and your family about the dangers of substance abuse.
- * Know the laws and liability regarding serving alcohol to youth in your home.
- * Don't close your eyes to a problem if your child or anyone you care about seems to be using drugs or alcohol. Seek professional help.
- * Take responsibility. Talk to other parents of your concerns about their child's behaviors or activities.

As a Community Member you can:

- * Be informed about the laws regarding underage buying, selling, and use of alcohol, cigarettes and other drugs.
- * Take an active role in supporting drug education and conflict resolution in the schools, in the workplace and by community associations.
- * Alert someone if you see activities that concern you - such as youth drinking or using drugs, older persons buying alcohol or cigarettes for someone underage. Inform the school, police, the storeowner or the person's parents about your concerns.
- * Support the work of local law enforcement efforts.
- * Be aware and responsible for products marketed to young people and their impact on the community.
- * Take Action: let store owners know you disapprove of their marketing to underage consumers.
- * Write letters, telephone, fax or visit members of the publishing, merchandising and media world who glamorize, trivialize or subsidize the drug culture. Let them know you disapprove!

Safe & Drug Free Schools & Communities Act (S.D.F.S.C.A.)

This funding is a per pupil allotment from the Federal Government to every school district in the United States. This money must be designated by the school district for programs, classes, activities, workshops, conferences, surveys, techniques, strategies and curricula which assist in the prevention of alcohol, tobacco, other drugs and violence by our students.

The monies received by the Clarkstown Central School District have funded and supported many important programs in our school e.g., the Great Body Shop health curriculum (grades 1, 2 and 3), Violence Prevention curriculum (grades K-12), conferences attended by teachers, psychologists, administrators and student assistance counselors related to alcohol, tobacco, other drugs and violence prevention, bullying workshops, middle school play, elementary school programs and presentations by consultants dealing with the development of safety teams within each of our buildings. This money also is utilized for after school clubs e.g., photography, art and health club. It also sponsors peer-to-peer programs such as Adopt-A-Class, peer helpers, etc.

CLARKSTOWN RESOURCES

Alanon/Alateen

(800) 356-9996

For members of a family or teens where alcohol is a problem in their home

Alcoholics Anonymous

(845) 352-1112

24 hour Hotline - Provides help for persons who wish to stop drinking

CANDLE pg. 25-26

(845) 634-6677

Community Awareness Network for a Drug Free Life & Environment

120 North Main Street Suite 301

New City, NY 10956

www.candlekids.org

www.trustyoursself.org

Clarkstown Central School District pg. 12-24

(845) 639-6300

62 Old Middletown Road

New City, NY 10956

Psychological Services & Elementary School Student Assistance Counselors

(845) 639-6392

Felix Festa Middle School:

(845) 639-6331

(845) 639-6396

(845) 639-6491

Clarkstown South High School:
(845) 624-3477
(845) 624-343

Clarkstown High School North:
(845) 639-6533
(845) 639-6573

Clarkstown Community Task Force pg. 1-11

(845) 639-6415
62 Old Middletown Road
New City, NY 10956

Clarkstown Family Resource Center Partnership

(845) 638-4110
Fax (845) 638-4139
277 South Main Street
New City, NY 10956

Clarkstown Police Department pg. 26-28

(845) 639-5800
20 Maple Avenue
New City, NY 10956

Juvenile Division:

(845) 639-5835

Clarkstown P.D. Tips Line:

1-877-639-6233

DARE:

(845) 639-5825

(845) 639-5826

School Resource Officers, pg. 27

Officer Matt Barry

North High School
(845) 639-6399
Felix Festa Middle School
(845) 639-6497
Police Department
(845) 639-5824

Officer Laurie McGrath

South High School
(845) 624-3491
Felix Festa Middle School
(845) 639-6497
Police Department
(845) 639-5829

Officer John Mollahan

(845) 639-5866
Nanuet High School

Officer Michael Mahoney

(845) 639-5828
Nyack High School

Daytop

(845) 353-2730

Hotline

1-800-2-Daytop

Comprehensive community based program treating adolescents, 13-19 years, who have or are at risk of having substance abuse problems. A secondary school program is available for teens in the day treatment program.

Off-site short and long-term residential treatment facilities are available.

EPIC Parenting Workshops

(Every Person Influences Children)

(845) 352-9105

461 Viola Road
Spring Valley, NY 10977

Trained volunteers lead workshops to improve parenting skills. A six-week series for parents of children ages birth through adolescence is offered.

Legal Aid Society

(845) 634-3627

2 Congers Road
New City, NY 10956

Provides mandated legal representation in the courts for indigent persons.

Narcotics Anonymous

(845) 639-7373

For substance abusers. Call Rockland Council on Alcoholism for a list of meeting places

Project Rainbow

(845) 267-2172

706 Executive Blvd.
Valley Cottage, NY 10989

An outpatient clinic for young people who are children of alcoholics/substance abusers or are alcohol/substance abusers themselves. A dynamic and exciting program for adolescents and their families.

Parent Support Network

(845) 639-7400 x 26

Mutual support group for parents of children and adolescents who have special emotional, social and behavioral problems.

Rockland Alliance for Prevention

(845) 638-5865

Fax (845) 638-5868

151 South Main Street

New City, NY 10956

Information and linkages for individuals and groups interested in the prevention of alcohol and other drug abuse; training for identification and referral of high risk youth; technical assistance; and a network of people from many different backgrounds who are working together to create a healthier and safer community for all Rocklanders.

Rockland Youth Bureau

(845) 638-5166

An umbrella agency for providing information and referral services for youth. It's mission is to promote a system of youth development and delinquency prevention services which assist youth to become productive members of society.

Rockland Council on Alcoholism & Other Drug Dependence

(845) 639-7373

A nonprofit organization that serves as a clearing-house for information and referral for questions and problems relating to alcohol and other substance abuse. Family Education and Intervention Services.

Self-Help Clearinghouse

(845) 639-7400 x 22

20 Squadron Blvd.

New City, NY 10956

Provides information and referral concerning self-help/mutual support groups. The Clearinghouse publishes a newsletter called "Making Contact" which lists groups, meeting dates/places, times, fees (if any), contact persons and phone numbers. It also publishes a directory of self-help groups for a nominal fee.

Special Education Training and Research Center

(SETRC) BOCES

(845) 348-3616

Parenting Groups

Student Advocacy, Inc.

(845) 358-2849

10 South Broadway

Nyack, NY 10960

Direct advocacy, information and technical assistance re: educational rights and entitlements, for ages 3-21. Organization offers educational speakers who are available to speak to school district PTAs and SEPTAs or any professional groups. Other services include (pro-bono) legal representation at superintendent's hearings. Bilingual service.

Town of Clarkstown Recreation

(845) 639-6200

Congers Community Center (845) 268-9700

Street Community Center (845) 634-3437

Tough Love

(845) 359-5938

(845) 634-5574

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

323 South Main Street

New City, NY 10956

Tough Love is a self-help, active support group for parents troubled by their children's behavior.

Volunteer Counseling Service

(VCS)

(845) 634-5729

77 South Main Street

New City, NY 10956

Volunteer counselors trained and supervised by VCS professional staff provide: individual, couple, and family counseling; educational workshops; parenting groups; conflict resolution and mediation services; and conflict resolution training.

VESID

Vocational & Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities

(845) 426-5410

15 Perlman Drive

Spring Valley, NY 10977

A NYS agency designed to restore, develop or improve the working ability of disabled individuals to the point where they can become satisfactorily employed or self-supporting.

VESID clients include youth who have "significant barriers to employment," whether they be physical, mental, or emotional. "Barriers" may include drug and alcohol abuse, learning disabilities, psychiatric problems, as well as physical and mental disabilities.

INTERNET RESOURCES

ABOUT: Drugs & Alcohol

<http://teenadvice.about.com/cs/drugsalcohol/index.htm>

Information about drug and alcohol use in teenagers; the warning signs that there is a problem, and how to get help for addiction.

Advocates for Youth

www.advocatesforyouth.org

Dedicated to creating programs and advocating for policies that help young people make informed and responsible decisions about their reproductive and sexual health. Advocates provide information, training, and strategic assistance to youth-serving organizations, policy makers, youth activists, and the media in the United States and the developing world.

American Council for Drug Education

www.acde.org

ACDE has an exciting range of educational programs and services designed to engage teens, address the needs of parents, and provide employers, educators, health professionals, policy-makers and the media with authoritative information on tobacco, alcohol and drugs such as marijuana, cocaine and heroin.

American Public Health Association

www.apha.org

Professional association dedicated to improving the public's health through education and advocacy.

CANDLE

www.candlekids.org

www.trustyourself.org

Information on programs offered by CANDLE and links to other sites.

Center for Substance Abuse Treatment

www.samhsa.gov/

SAMHSA works to improve the quality and availability of substance abuse prevention, addiction treatment, and mental health services. It includes links to find the right drug abuse treatment program or alcohol abuse treatment program.

Court TV 'Choices and Consequences' Curriculum

www.courttv.com/choices/

Educational curriculum intended to reduce the amount of youth violence and help teens respond to bullying, pranks and other teen issues. Curriculum is based on actual trial coverage that involved teenage defendants.

Clarkstown Central School District

www.ccsd.edu

Official website for the Clarkstown Central School District. A resource for current information on school programs, happenings and curriculum issues.

FBI Publications:

A Parent's Guide to Internet Safety

www.fbi.gov/publications/pguide/pguide.htm

The pamphlet is designed to help you to begin to understand the complexities of on-line child exploitation.

Internet Safety

www.safekids.com

Learn important child safety considerations when surfing the Internet. This site offers videos, books, and articles to share. It also contains information about parenting children with the Internet: rules, advice, tips and more...

Join Together

www.jointogether.org

Join Together is a national resource center for communities working to reduce substance abuse and gun violence.

Mothers Against Drunk Driving

www.madd.org

Cool resources for youth, parents & teachers; victim services and information; national and local projects; up-to-date news.

National Drunk and Drugged Driving (3D) Prevention Month Coalition

www.ncadd.com/3dmonth/index.htm

The Coalition, a public-private sector partnership, provides a focus for communities interested in participating in National 3D Prevention Month by sponsoring national campaign activities.

National Association of Town Watch

www.natw.org

A non-profit organization dedicated to the development and promotion of organized, law enforcement-affiliated crime and drug prevention programs. Members include: Neighborhood, Crime, Community, Town and Block Watch Groups; law enforcement agencies; state and regional crime prevention associations; a variety of businesses, civic groups and concerned individuals working to make their communities safer places in which to live and work.

National Clearinghouse for Alcohol & Drug Information

www.health.org

The National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information (NCADI) is the information service of the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration in the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.

National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependency

www.ncadd.org

NCADD provides education and advice in the fight against alcoholism and other drug addictions.

National Institute of Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse

www.niaaa.nih.gov

NIAAA is dedicated to providing alcohol and alcoholism information. The site includes a related database and links.

National Institute of Drug Abuse

www.nida.nih.gov

Researches abuse and distributes information in an effort to improve drug policy. One of the National Institutes of Health.

Office of National Drug Control

www.theantidrug.com

TheAntiDrug.com, a site created by ONDCP (Office of National Drug Control Policy), is the government's most comprehensive Web site to engage and educate parents and other adults about adolescent drug prevention.

Office of National Drug Control

www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov

Drug facts, publications, current legislation, enforcement, treatment, scientific research and links to sites geared for teens - games, information, letters

Parenting Coalition International

www.parentingcoalition.org

Supporting the professional development needs and interests of parents, parenting practitioners and those working to strengthen families. Quick links about the PCI Mission, vision, board and more.

Parenting is Prevention Project

www.parentingisprevention.org

This site is for parents who want to keep their children drug-free.

Parents' Resource Institute for Drug Education, Inc. (PRIDE)

www.pride.org

The site is used to activate parents, other adults and youth by raising awareness and by educating the community regarding the effects on and the danger to youth caused by the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs and to encourage public policy which supports a safe, drug-free lifestyle.

Partnership for Drug Free America

www.drugfreeamerica.org

Our Mission: To help kids and teens reject substance abuse by influencing attitudes through persuasive information.