



August 2011

Dear Parents,

Blind Brook High School along with 30 other High Schools and 11 Junior High/Middle Schools in Westchester and Rockland Counties is continuing a Student Assistance Program for the 2011-2012 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, and other drug prevention activities and counseling services to students. The program will also provide early identification of students who are experiencing alcohol and other drug related problems, including students who may be involved in bullying situations and problem gambling. It is anticipated that this combination of services will accomplish the following goals:

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

Angela Marciano has returned to serve as the Student Assistance Counselor at Blind Brook High School. She will be working part-time and will have evening hours available to see parents and meet with community groups. Angela has a Masters Degree in Social Work, previous experience in working with adolescents, and specialized training in prevention and early intervention strategies with adolescents at risk of having alcohol, other drug, or gambling related problems. She is being paid and supervised by Student Assistance Services Corporation and the school.

Angela 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.

Angela will be available to see students who are using alcohol or other drugs, gambling or have personal, peer, school, or family issues that could lead to substance abuse, including involvement in bullying situations. If you are worried about your child or another student and would like to speak to the Student Assistance Counselor and/or have the Student Assistance Counselor see your child or another student, please call her directly at 937-3600 x 3144. All calls will be confidential.

We are hopeful that this program 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,

Gina M. Healy

Gina M. Healy
Principal