



September 11, 2009

High School Parents/Guardians:

Blind Brook High School, along with 31 other High Schools and 15 Junior High/Middle Schools in Westchester and Rockland Counties is implementing a **Project SUCCESS** Program for the 2009-2010 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, other drug, and problem gambling 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. It is anticipated that this combination will accomplish the following goals:

1. to prevent the development of alcohol, tobacco, other drug abuse, and problem gambling 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 MS. LCSW, CASAC, CPP has been selected to serve as the Project SUCCESS 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. Ms. Marciano has Masters Degrees in clinical psychology and 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 district.

Ms. Marciano 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. Marciano will be available to see students who are gambling, using alcohol or other drugs or have personal, peer, school, or family issues that could lead to substance abuse. If you are worried about your child or another student and would like to speak to the Project SUCCESS Counselor and/or have the Project SUCCESS Counselor see your child or another student, please call her directly at Ext. 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,

*Vincent Galasso*

Vincent Galasso  
Interim Principal