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John Falino
Principal

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Dear Families,

Dobbs Ferry High School, along with 50 other secondary schools in Westchester County, is continuing a Student Assistance/Project SUCCESS Program for the 2024-2025 school year. This program is funded by the NYS Office of Addiction Services and Supports through the Westchester County Department of Community Mental Health, the school district, and by corporate and private donations. The program will provide alcohol, nicotine, vaping, and other drug prevention activities and counseling for students including support for students and families experiencing bullying situations, and/or problem gambling. It is anticipated that this combination of services will accomplish the following goals:

1. prevent substance use and social and emotional problems among students
2. reduce the incidence of substance use and social emotional problems among students
3. improve school performance and attitudes toward school, and support social emotional skill development

Juliana Caputo will continue in her role as the Student Assistance Counselor at Dobbs Ferry High School. She will be working full-time in the district and will have evening hours available to meet with parents and community groups. Ms. Caputo holds a Master's Degree in Social Work and has experience working with adolescents along with 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. Caputo will be meeting with students individually and in small groups for education and prevention activities to correct erroneous perceptions about substance use, to support social and emotional health, and to teach students skills to identify and resist social and situational pressures to use substances or participate in other unhealthy behaviors. Parent meetings corresponding to our prevention program will also be offered. Ms. Caputo will be available to see students who are using substances, vaping, gambling or have personal, peer, school, or family issues that could increase their risk of using substances, developing mental health problems, and/or being involved 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 (914) 693-7645 ext. 3003. All calls will be confidential.

Ms. Caputo will also provide multi-session educational programs for students who are vaping or under the influence of substances at school or school sponsored activities. When students are not in the school building, Ms. Caputo will provide all program services remotely including confidential counseling through telehealth.

We are hopeful 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, nicotine, other drug use, mental health problems, and problem gambling.

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

Sincerely,

Dr. John Falino, Ed.D.
Principal