



Briarcliff High School
444 Pleasantville Road
Briarcliff Manor, New York 10510
(914) 769-6299

Diana Blank
Principal

Daniel Goldberg
Assistant Principal

Summer 2024

Dear Parent,

Briarcliff High School, along with 51 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 district, and by corporate and private donations. The program provides 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. with the following goals in mind:

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

Meredith Ohmes is returning as the Student Assistance Counselor at Briarcliff High School. She will be working Monday through Thursday at the high school, with evening hours available to see parents and meet with community groups. Ms. Ohmes is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor with 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 paid and supervised by Student Assistance Services Corporation and the school.

Ms. Ohmes 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 may also be offered. Ms. Ohmes 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) 488-8368. All calls will be confidential.

Ms. Ohmes 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. Ohmes will provide all program services remotely including confidential counseling via Microsoft Teams or Zoom.

As always, do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions about the program.

Sincerely,

Diana Blank
Principal