

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM MESMS

To: ALL PARENTS/GUARDIANS OF MESMS STUDENTS

From: MRS. LINDA GRIMM

Date: September 2008

Mildred E. Strang Middle School, along with twenty-three other middle schools in Westchester and Rockland Counties, is continuing the Student Assistance Program for the 2008-2009 school year. This program is funded by the NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services; the NYS Education Department; the school district and other grant resources. This program provides education and counseling services to students to help prevent the abuse of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs.

The Student Assistance Program has several goals. One goal of this program is to provide procedures for the early identification of students who are experiencing, or are at high risk for alcohol and other drug related difficulties. A second goal is to reduce the incidence of alcohol and other drug related problems among students. A third goal is to improve school performance and attitudes toward school among program participants.

Ms. Danielle Gamar is returning to Mildred E. Strang Middle School as our Student Assistance Counselor from her parental leave. She has her Master of Social Work degree and has specialized training in prevention and early intervention strategies with adolescents who are at risk of having alcohol and other drug-related problems. Ms. Gamar works part-time in our school on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 7:30 am – 3:00 pm. She will have evening hours available to see parents and make presentations. During the school year, Ms. Gamar will meet with sixth, seventh and eighth grade students individually and in small groups for substance abuse prevention activities and to teach students the skills to identify and resist social and situational pressure to use drugs or alcohol.

Ms. Gamar will be available to see students who may be, or who are at-risk for using tobacco, alcohol, or other drugs, or have personal, school or family issues that could increase their risk of using substances. If you are concerned that your child is in a situation that might increase his/her risk for drug or alcohol use and you would like to speak to the Student Assistance Counselor, please call Ms. Gamar directly at 243-8181. All calls are confidential. **In the event that your child is referred and/or refers him/herself and you DO NOT want your child to meet with the Student Assistance Counselor, please complete the form at the bottom of this letter and return it to the Main Office by September 19, 2008.** Please feel free to call me at 243-8100 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Linda S. Grimm
Principal

**** Please return this form to the MAIN OFFICE only if you **DO NOT** want your child to meet with, or speak to the Student Assistance Counselor at Mildred E. Strang Middle School. ****

Name of Student _____ Grade _____

Address _____ Phone # _____

If my child is referred, or refers him/herself to the Student Assistance Counselor, I do not want him/her to meet with the Student Assistance Counselor for individual or group counseling.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____