

August 2021

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s) of High School Students, _____

We continually strive to provide our students and families with access to professionals and information that is relevant, current, and meets their individual needs. To that end, we have developed partnerships with several different community agencies to provide various services to the high school students we serve. The goal of these services is to work in conjunction with counselors, teachers, and parents in a cooperative effort to ensure the growth and ultimate success of your son(s) and daughter(s) while in high school and beyond.

Attached you will find a list of the community agencies that we will be working with for the school year. You will also find a short description of the agency, the point person (if available), and a description of the work they will be doing with our students. In all cases, students will be allowed to self-refer for these services. However, there may be times that an administrator, a counselor, a classroom teacher or the school nurse may recommend that a student meet with the agency representative. In many cases, but not all, permission or other information from parents will be required in order to establish a working relationship with the agency. In most every case, the students' continued involvement will be completely voluntary.

If you do not want your son or daughter to access these services, please fill out the form located at the bottom of this letter and return it to the main office no later than Friday, September 17, 2021. Should you have any questions or concerns, Please do not hesitate to contact me at 413-743-5200 ext 5007 or the building principal.

Loriann J. Moro, M.Ed., C.A.G.S
School Adjustment Counselor

I have read the attached information and

_____ I do not give consent for my child to access these services.

Student Name: _____
(Printed)

Parent/Guardian Name: _____
(Printed)

Parent Signature _____ Date: _____

**Elizabeth Freeman Center
Amanda- 413-663-7234**

The Elizabeth Freeman center is committed to working towards a world free from violence and all forms of oppression. Every hour of every day, Elizabeth Freeman Center provides life saving, life-renewing help to survivors of domestic and sexual violence and to their families.

Amanda is a counselor who will be at Hoosac one day each week. Primarily, she sees students who may have issues with teen dating violence, relationship issues, and assault. Individually, she is able to offer safety planning and community referrals to students and families. She also sees teens in a group setting to discuss the qualities and characteristics of healthy relationships. Amanda will co-facilitate this group during the school day with Mrs. Moro.

Amanda can see underage students once without parental permission but past the first time, his agency requires that he have parental permission for continued counseling.

**Hospice Care in The Berkshires, Inc.
Lori Johnson
413-443-2994
www.hcib.org**

HospiceCare in The Berkshires, Inc. is a non-profit organization with more than 30 years experience providing compassionate end-of-life care. Hospice Care in The Berkshires also offers counseling services to help anyone in the community through the grieving process.

Lori will be here weekly to host and co-facilitate a group with Mrs. Moro for students who are living after the death of a parent, primary caregiver, or influential person in their life. She will make herself available to speak to students individually as the need arises. The agency has also conducted staff training for all Hoosac teachers on dealing with a grieving child.

**Brien Center
Jason Skalski
413-499-0412**

Children and adolescents face myriad challenges at home, at school, on the internet, and in their communities that can sometimes overwhelm their ability to cope and affect their physical and emotional health. The Brien Center is there to help young people succeed at home, in school, in relationships, and most importantly, live happy, balanced lives.

The Brien Center will provide a Substance Abuse Counselor whose job it will be to see students who are referred by the administration, staff, parents or who are self-referred for counseling specifically around the area of substance use, misuse, and abuse. Allyson will also co-facilitate a group with Mrs. Moro for children whose lives have been touched by another's substance abuse disorder.

Tapestry Health
Katrina Madison
413-446-2844

Tapestry Health remains the only non-profit organization in the region to offer family planning and reproductive health care to often marginalized individuals, such as young people, women living in poverty, recent immigrants, uninsured and underinsured persons, injection drug users, the homeless, and men and women with HIV/AIDS, regardless of their ability to pay.

Katrina Madison (or designated employees of Tapestry Health) will be here monthly on the one Wednesday of each month. She will set up a table during both high school lunches with informational handouts and pamphlets. Representatives will be available after the lunch periods to see students individually who are concerned with their own sexual decision-making and reproductive health. They will conduct abstinence counseling, sexually transmitted infection prevention education, counseling, and testing referrals, pregnancy prevention counseling and pregnancy testing, and information on various forms of birth control as well as referrals for a wide range of health services. Tapestry agents will disseminate information, guidance, and referrals at lunches in an open format so students can make the choice themselves to obtain information. We cannot keep students away from this table. If privacy is required, the Tapestry representative will see students in an office provided.

Parental involvement will always be encouraged but is not mandated by law and all services will be provided confidentially.