



TABERNACLE SCHOOL DISTRICT

132 New Road, Tabernacle, NJ 08088

Susan Grosser, Principal
Kenneth R. Olson Middle School

Dear Parents and Guardians:

A new state program, educating students on drugs use and the dangers involved, is being implemented in our middle school. Law Enforcement Against Drugs (L.E.A.D.) is a collaborative effort by LEAD certified NJ State Troopers, educators, students, parents, and community to offer an educational program in the classroom to prevent or reduce drug abuse and violence among children and youth.

The emphasis of the sixth-grade program is to help students recognize and resist the many direct and subtle pressures that influence them to experiment with alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, inhalants, or other drugs or to engage in violence. The LEAD program offers preventive strategies to enhance protective factors - especially bonding to the family, school, and community - which has been proven to help foster the development of resiliency in young people who may be at risk for substance abuse or other problem behaviors. It also helps to build the capacity of young people in making healthy, independent growth in spite of adverse conditions. These strategies focus on the development of social competence, communication skills, self-esteem, empathy, decision-making, conflict resolution, sense of purpose and independence, and positive alternative activities to drug abuse and other destructive behaviors.

For our school, the 6th grade program content for LEAD is organized into 12 45- to 60-minute lessons taught by New Jersey State Troopers. A specially trained Trooper is assigned to the school one day a week for half of the school year to conduct weekly lessons. Student participation in the LEAD program is incorporated as part of the school's curricular offering in health, science, social studies, language arts, or other subjects as appropriate.

The LEAD curriculum has proven effective in reducing adolescent alcohol, marijuana, and tobacco use in students by preparing students to act decisively in refusing offers to use drugs, and helping students to recognize the risks and avoid drug-related situations. It also focuses on building strong decision-making, communication, planning and assertive refusal skills. At the core of the program is empowering youth to value their own perceptions and feelings and make choices that support drug-free values.

The LEAD programs - offered in concert with other school-based prevention activities and intervention strategies for the identification, early intervention, and aftercare support of students at risk for substance abuse - may be viewed as a comprehensive substance abuse program that meets the goals of the federal Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act.

For more information on LEAD, click here <http://www.leadrugs.org>.

Sincerely,

Susan Grosser
Principal

EMPATHETIC, INNOVATIVE, GAME CHANGERS! WE THINK...WE FEEL... WE DO!

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