



BEDFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Administrative Unit #25

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To: Bedford School Board Members

From: Michael Fournier, Superintendent

Date: September 9, 2019

Re: BSD Response to NH Addiction Crisis

In November of 2015 there was a summit held at Manchester Christian Church, Bedford. The summit was hosted by the Bedford Police Department and co-moderated by the Superintendent of Schools. The event was intended to shed light on the state of addiction in our community. This event was a catalyst and call for action in the areas of education, prevention, and treatment. Below is a list of initiatives and events that the Bedford School District, in collaboration with our community partners, worked to incorporate into our vision of being responsive to the needs of our students.

Red Ribbon Week

Red Ribbon Week at each school emphasizing awareness and a commitment of our students to be drug and alcohol free. Developmentally appropriate activities for each level. 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019.

Additional Licenced Alcohol, Drug & Abuse Counselor

In August of 2016, a 2nd Licenced Alcohol, Drug & Abuse Counselor (LADAC) at BHS/RAL. This position was added to meet the needs of students requiring additional assistance with addiction.

Additional School Resource Officer (SRO)

This position works directly with students, staff and families at the K-6 level. Their role includes community policing, co-teaching on health, safety, and drug awareness prevention, and providing assistance to schools in working with all stakeholders in areas that are shared between schools and police. This addition was made in 2016.

Drug Sniffing Dog

The incorporation of drug sniffing dogs at BHS in April of 2016 as a means of prevention and identification of drug paraphernalia in the school.

Student Assemblies

Chris Herrin - A former professional NBA player who speaks with students about his addiction to Heroin. Chris has spoken at BHS twice in the last three years.

Curriculum Revision

Between 2016 and 2019, the Bedford School District has engaged in curriculum that directly and indirectly impacts student choices in how they manage stress, anxiety, and build assets to prevent addictive behaviors. A list of K-8 Health topics are listed [HERE](#). At BHS, click [HERE](#) for Wellness I and [HERE](#) for Wellness II.

Enhanced Topics to the Curriculum Included:

K-8: Self Esteem/Peer Pressure/Bullies (5), Alcohol Myths and Realities (6), Dangers of Tobacco Smoking, Vaping and Chewing (6), Drug Abuse: Cause and Effect (7), Process of Addiction and Consequences (8)

Wellness I: Risk Factors, Protective Factors, Socialization of Drug Use, Development of the Brain

Wellness II: Drug Research Project, Youth Risk Behavior Survey Results, & Life After Addiction

Events

1. **“National Prescription Drug Take Back Day”** Partner with Drug Enforcement Agency & Bedford Police. Next Event: October 26, 2019.
2. **“Start the Conversation”** @ McKelvie for parents and students of 5th and 6th grade families. This was hosted in March of 2017 and included an expert panel.
3. **“Continue the Conversation”** @ McKelvie as a follow up to the previous year’s event. This was hosted by the McKelvie Guidance Department and focused on how to talk to your child about drug and alcohol use.
4. **“Know the Signs”** - Event hosted by the BSD with Justice Broderick on mental illness and its impact on addiction.

Other

BeBOLD (Bedford Building Our Lives Drug Free). This non-profit community group is a collection of professionals representing law enforcement, education, finance, housing, the medical field, mental health, social work, and a variety of other fields interested in the education, awareness and elimination of addiction in our community.

1. Monthly Speaker series events are held at the Bedford Public Library.
2. Activity Scholarship Program designed to provide funds for “at risk” students.
3. College Scholarship (up to 4 \$500 grants awarded).
4. Meeting with Legislators regarding impact of legalized marijuana on our students and community.
5. Partnership with Coalition for Bedford Youth (CBY).