



SHARON HIGH SCHOOL

181 POND STREET SHARON, MA 02067
OFFICE: (781) 784-1554 FAX: (781) 784-1550
WWW.SHARON.K12.MA.US/SHS



@SHS_EAGLES @SHARONMAEAGLES @SHS_EAGLES

JOSE LIBANO, PRINCIPAL
ELIZABETH GAVIN, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
JENNIFER GRAVELINE, SPECIAL EDUCATION ADMINISTRATOR

ROBERT POMER, DEAN OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
NICHOLAS SCHLIERF, ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

November 16, 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian:

In March of 2016 the legislature in Massachusetts passed a new law requiring schools to conduct interview-based screenings of students in grades 7-12 about the use of alcohol, marijuana, and other drugs. You can review the law at the following link: <http://bit.ly/2omrZf1>.

All of the school counselors, health/PE teachers, the nurse, and members of the administrative and clinical staff at SHS have been trained in the law and in facilitating the interview-based screenings. Our group is called the SBIRT (Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral to Treatment) Team. To date, the current sophomores and juniors have participated in the screenings.

This letter comes to families of current freshmen because we are planning on conducting these screenings during Wellness classes the week of November 26th. The timing is also excellent because it coincides with related curricular topics being covered in the classroom.

On the day of the screening, your child's Wellness class will report to the Counseling Department for a brief overview of the process. Then, each student will be directed one-by-one to a school counselor (other than the one assigned to them), so that the interview-based screening can be completed in private. You can view a copy of the questions that will be asked by navigating to the following link: <https://bit.ly/2zgiGE2>.

Each interview will be brief, most lasting less than 5 minutes. As already mentioned it will be conducted in confidence in the office of one of the guidance counselors, and a student can choose at any time not to answer any or all of the questions. Responses that reflect healthy decision-making will be acknowledged and reinforced. Responses that prompt concern will result in an offer of resources and in-school support.

Know that personalized results from these screenings will not be included/saved in your child's school record. Responses are tallied and not attributed to individuals. Only in circumstances where a child gives us explicit permission to share or when there is a sense that a child is in imminent danger will the school intervene and potentially involve others. Furthermore, note that the results cannot be used in any way for disciplinary purposes. It is the goal and intent of these interviews to foster a supportive environment that helps educate our students and that possibly saves lives.

As with any early intervention screening at SHS, you have the right to opt your child out. While we don't advise it and believe that these screenings have tremendous value, if you choose to do so please contact the Dean of Academic Affairs, Bob Pomer, **as soon as possible and no later than 8:00 a.m. on Monday, November 26th**. He can be reached at b_pomer@sharon.k12.ma.us.

For more information about these interview-based screenings, contact me or visit the following website: <http://bit.ly/2giSlfF>. Additionally, SHS encourages you to complement our efforts to combat substance abuse by engaging in related discussion at home. Working together, we can make a difference and prevent problems for the youth of Sharon.

Sincerely and respectfully,

Jose Libano

Jose Libano, Ed.D.
Principal

VISION, MISSION, AND CORE VALUES

SHARON HIGH SCHOOL STRIVES TO BE A RESPECTFUL, CARING, DYNAMIC, AND INSPIRATIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITY.

WE OFFER OUR STUDENTS THE ACADEMIC, CIVIC, AND SOCIAL TOOLS TO BE INFORMED, THOUGHTFUL, AND EFFECTIVE CONTRIBUTORS TO A GLOBALLY CONNECTED WORLD.

PERSEVERANCE ~ RESPONSIBILITY ~ INTEGRITY ~ DEDICATION ~ EXCELLENCE

SHARON PUBLIC SCHOOLS DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE ON THE BASIS OF
AGE, COLOR, DISABILITY, GENDER IDENTITY, HOMELESSNESS, NATIONAL ORIGIN, RACE, RELIGION, SEX, OR SEXUAL ORIENTATION