



Mashpee Public Schools
Mashpee Middle/High School

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December 20, 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians of Grade 7 and Grade 9 students,

This January we will be conducting a screening at Mashpee Middle/High School on all 7th and 9th grade students. The screening, required by MA Law (Chapter 52, Acts of 2016), **An Act Relative to Substance use, treatment, Education and Prevention** is best known as SBIRT, an acronym for Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment. This evidence-based screening model is aimed at preventing the use of alcohol, marijuana and/or other substances. Our primary goal is to let students know that their school nurse and counseling staff are available daily to reinforce healthy decision making behaviors and to assist them in obtaining additional support for any substance use or related issue if needed.

The school nurse and school counselors will be doing the confidential screening of each student. The screening consists of ten questions developed to screen adolescents for high-risk alcohol and drug use disorders. This screening tool is called the CRAFFT and is recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics and widely used with adolescents in Massachusetts. The short, effective tool is meant to assess whether a longer conversation about the context of use, frequency and other risks and consequences of alcohol and drug use is warranted. The tool may be viewed on the Mashpee District's website. (*Click Departments-Health Offices-Health Office Documents-View all-SBIRT Screening and CRAFFT tool*)

Students who are not using substances will have their healthy choices reinforced by the screener. The screener will provide brief feedback to any student who reports using a substance or who is at risk for future substance abuse. We will refer students to our counseling staff for further evaluation with student permission, if needed. All students will be provided helpful, educational information regarding substance use.

This program focuses on harm prevention and does not generate any disciplinary action. The results of the screening are not included in the student's school file or school health record. Parents and/or students have the right to opt out of this screening process. **We request that you send a written note or email to the school nurse no later than January 3rd, 2020 if you wish to opt out of this year's SBIRT screening program.**

If you have any further questions you may contact Joyce O'Connor, MMHS School Nurse, at 508-539-6712 or email her at joconnor@mpspk12.org. You may also visit the SBIRT website at <http://www.masbirt.org/> for more information.

Sincerely,

Mark Balestracci, Principal

Mashpee—A Connected Community

All students, regardless of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, or homelessness, have equal access to the general education program and to the full range of co-curricular/enrichment/sports programs offered by the Mashpee Public Schools.