

## **Student Assistance is:**

- > An Identification Program
- > An Intervention Program
- > A Support Program

### C.A.T. MEMBERS

Mr. Adam Brewer-----Principal  
Mrs. Brittany Wagner-----Counselor/Dean of Students  
Mrs. Antoinette Weber-----Counselor  
Mrs. Marie Ripepi-----Nurse  
Ms. Beth Noble-----Physical Education Teacher  
Mrs. Lorraine Finch-----Family Consumer Science Teacher  
Mr. Michael Flaherty-----Art Teacher  
Ms. Erin Wilkerson-----Home & School Visitor/  
Social Worker

- > A Referral Program

### C.A.T. Consultants

Ms. Bethany Hatalsky-----Drug/Alcohol Liaison  
Mrs. Elizabeth Jacob-Becka-----SPHS Behavioral Health

## **Student Assistance is Not:**

- > A Counseling Program
- > A Discipline Program
- > A Drug/Alcohol Program
- > A Treatment Program

“Too often we underestimate the power of a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around”.

by: Leo F. Buscaglia

For Further Information Contact  
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CHARLEROI AREA MIDDLE SCHOOL

# **2015-2016 STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM “SAP”**



# **CHARLEROI ASSISTANCE TEAM “CAT”**

## *Program Overview*

The Student Assistance Program (SAP) is a systematic, professional and realistic response to students who are having trouble not only in their educational performance, but also with their physical, mental, social and emotional well-being. This is a state mandated program for all secondary level schools in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The Charleroi Assistance Team (CAT) members are a concerned group of school personnel that have been trained in SAP to identify students who are experiencing barriers to learning. Parents/Guardians of the involved student, as well as the student, are actively engaged in the SAP process. Strict rules of confidentiality apply to all phases of the Student Assistance Program. Parent/Guardian permission is required for a student to participate in this program.

*“Together we can  
succeed when we show we  
care.”*

## *Frequently Asked Questions...*

### **Q. What is the Student Assistance Program?**

A. The Student Assistance Program (SAP) has been designed to improve the quality of education in our school by providing assistance to students troubled by physical, emotional, social, mental and or drug/alcohol use problems. SAP is not a treatment program and does not replace guidance, discipline, health or other school resources. Utilizing school staff, as well as, community resources when necessary, the program focuses on identified concerns of the students.

### **Q. Who coordinates this program?**

A. SAP is coordinated by a group of concerned members of the professional staff who have received specialized training in recognizing behaviors which inhibit personal growth/development. This group is referred to as the Charleroi Assistance Team (CAT).

### **Q. How is a referral made?**

A. A referral is made by contacting any member of Charleroi Assistance Team (CAT).

### **Q. Who can make a referral to the Student Assistance Program?**

A. Referrals can be made by the school administrators, faculty/staff, parents or other concerned adults, peers, or by the students themselves.

### **Q. When is a referral made to the Charleroi Assistance Team?**

A. Referrals are made when concerns in areas such as attendance, academics, behavior and/or health are recognized and may require additional support for that student.

### **Q. What procedure is followed after a referral is made?**

- A.
1. **Identification**—CAT assists school staff with identification and description of behavior that may be a barrier to learning.
  2. **Information Gathering**—Information is gathered through information checklists, school records, meetings with the student (with parental permission), and parental contacts. This information is gathered to get a better understanding of the student’s situation and to identify those options available for dealing with the barriers to learning.
  3. **Referral Services**—If more specialized assistance or treatment is needed, CAT may refer parents/guardians to a community or private agency for help—again only with parental/guardian permission.
  4. **Follow-up**—CAT maintains communication with a wide range of services to assist students and their families in making use of the appropriate assistance.
  5. **Support**—Support is often needed to help students with the changes they are attempting to make. CAT will provide that support, as well as, continue to monitor the students’ success. Additional support is offered through educational support groups, such as changing families, self-awareness, and grief/loss.