

How are Employment & Life Skills Offered?

Linkages staff is available to help students complete job applications, write resumes, practice interviewing skills, and find a job. Special attention is given to a student's individual interests to ensure good job placement. Special assistance is also given to students whose families are having financial difficulties. Through the Linkages Program, students and their families are connected with community resources that offer cash assistance programs, food, clothing, and emergency housing.

How are Recreational Services Offered?

Recreational services are offered both through the Linkages Drop-In Center as well as through a variety of trips offered to participants throughout the year. The Drop-In Center, which is staffed by an employee of Middle Earth, is located in the Linkages office area and provides a chance for students to relax during their lunch period. Wii games and board games are just some of the FREE amenities offered in the Drop-In Center. Recreational outings include trips to the beach and amusement parks. These trips are offered at a greatly reduced cost to students participating in the Linkages program. Students are also encouraged to become involved with the Middle Earth Drop-In Centers located in Somerville and Bound Brook which are open 3-7 pm Monday through Thursday and 3-8 pm on Friday.



Linkages Program Staff

Elaine M. Howe, Director of Linkages

Cathy Bladt, Linkages Mental Health Coordinator

Donna Lenox, Substance Abuse/Mental Health Clinician

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Somerset County Vocational School District's Affirmative Action Policy

To provide equal educational opportunities regardless of sex, race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, age, sexual orientation, handicap, or social/economic status. Contact Teresa Morelli, Title IX & Affirmative Action Officer, 908-526-8900, x7157.



LINKAGES

**A School Based Youth Services Program
Funded by the New Jersey Department
of Children and Families**



Let's Connect!

Somerset County
Vocational & Technical Schools
Attn: Linkages Office
PO Box 6350
14 Vogt Drive
Bridgewater, NJ 08807



What is Linkages?

Linkages is one of 90 School-Based Youth Services programs funded by the New Jersey Division of Children and Families. These programs are designed to enable teens to complete their education and lead emotionally and physically healthy lives by offering counseling, job placement, life skills and recreation to the students on site at no cost. Linkages provides students with an array of services at one location — SCVTHS.

The Linkages School-Based Program enhances the school's existing services by bringing community based services to adolescents in need. The Linkages team comprised of school staff and professionals from two different Somerset County agencies: Family and Community Services and Middle Earth.



Who Does Linkages Serve?

Linkages offers year round FREE services to all SCVTHS students (this includes all full-time, shared-time, and Twilight students) who are between 14 and 18 years old. Students under the age of 16 are required to have a signed parental consent form in order to participate in the Program.

Services are provided 7:30 am until 2:30 pm Monday through Friday during the school-year and from 7:30 am until 2:30 pm Monday through Thursday during the summer.



What Counseling Services are Offered?

Individual, group, and family counseling are available to all SCVTHS and Twilight students. Students seek counseling from Linkages for a variety of issues: employment and job readiness, school problems, peer pressure, anxiety, conflict resolution, substance abuse*, depression and eating disorders. Crisis intervention services are also available to the students as needed. Referrals are made to community agencies if the program is unable to provide the assistance a student requires. Linkages staff will also make referrals if more long term intensive counseling is needed.

*Substance abuse counseling is provided to students who have a substance abuse issue or who are affected by a family member or friend who has a substance abuse problem.

What is Twilight?

Twilight is a summer career/technical training and academic skills development program that provides services through a collaboration between Linkages and SCVTHS staff. It is designed to help prepare teens for the future by providing them with the skills, attitudes, and support needed to continue their education or to hold a job and maintain employment.

Students in the summer program receive a stipend for obtaining career and technical training.



Linkages...Let's Connect!

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