

## The Elementary Student Assistance Program (ESAP)



ESAP is a process for identifying students who are experiencing behavior and/or academic difficulties which pose a barrier to their learning and success in school. ESAP offers support to those students and their families.

The ESAP team is made up of specially trained teachers, administrators, school counselor, school nurse, school social worker and an ESAP liaison from Turtle Creek Valley Community Services.

One of the most important tasks of an ESAP team is to build a partnership with families, focusing on the student's success as their common goal. Participation in the ESAP process is voluntary.

The ESAP team information is completely confidential and the team will respect you, and your child's, privacy.

### Referral Process

Students can be referred to ESAP by parents/guardians or school personnel. School personnel will contact you prior to submitting a referral. Once your child is referred for ESAP services, you will receive an ESAP consent form to complete and return.

Before any action is taken you must give your permission. The ESAP team will work with you and your child throughout the process.

As a parent/guardian, your knowledge and thoughts about your child will be helpful in developing a plan of action. If you need more information before making a decision about ESAP, please feel free to contact Mrs. Garbisch at (724) 274 - 6500.

With parent approval, ESAP may offer student-centered services such as educational support groups, in-school mentoring, a confidential screening, and/or a recommendation to appropriate outside services.

### REASONS TO REFER

- Withdrawing from family, friends, and/or activities
- Changing friends
- Unexplained physical injuries
- Feeling sad
- Talking about suicide
- Defying authority, both at home and school
- Acting aggressively
- Hitting
- Lying
- Needing money without a good explanation
- Declining grades
- Experimenting with alcohol or drugs
- Back-talking

*"Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping."  
Fred Rodgers*

### ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S REACTION TO:

- Recent death of a loved one
- Divorce of parents
- Family relocation
- A relationship problem
- Another traumatic event
- Bullying

If your child is having trouble in or out of school, we can help. There may be times when you just do not know how to help your child. That is okay; someone else may know how to help!

Do not feel embarrassed or uncomfortable about asking for help. When extra help is needed, knowing how and where to find help can be overwhelming. Please contact Mrs. Garbisch at (724) 274 - 6500 so we can best support you and your student(s) needs.