



Mashpee Public Schools
Mashpee Middle/High School

500 Old Barnstable Road
Mashpee, MA 02649
508-539-3600
Fax 508-539-3607

Mark L. Balestracci
Principal
mbalestracci@mpspk12.org
Eduardo MacDonald
Dean of Students Grades 10-12
emacdonald@mpspk12.org
Rewa J. Melby
Dean of Students Grades 7-9
rmelby@mpspk12.org

Patricia M. DeBoer
Superintendent of Schools

Hope P. Hanscom
Assistant Superintendent of Schools

December 2018

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

This January we will be conducting an evidence-based 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. It is a public health model 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 screening process is part of the annual state mandated screenings that are performed each school year. The school nurse and school counselors will be doing the screening and they will be conducted in a confidential, one-on-one session with each student. We will be utilizing a substance and behavioral health screening tool called the CRAFFT. The tool is recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics and widely used with adolescents in Massachusetts. It consists of ten questions developed to screen adolescents for high-risk alcohol and drug use disorders. It is a short, effective screening tool 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-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 December 14th, 2018 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.