



Reaching Out

Norristown Area Communities That Care for Youth

Keeping Youth Safe & Drug Free

Winter 2012

The Benefits of Tutoring

By Julie Knudsen, LCSW, School Social Worker, Norristown Area School District

It is the expectation that every student in the Norristown Area School District will succeed. A multitude of extra curricular activities and after-school programs are available to support and enrich individual growth and ensure that all students have the opportunity to reach their potential.

One program that is offered to all high school students at no cost is after-school tutoring. Tutoring in English and mathematics is provided by high school math and English teachers Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 2:45-4 p.m. Additionally, Cabrini students are offering a program specifically for Latino students at the same time.

Students do not need to sign up for tutoring; they can simply drop in after school. Transportation home is available. There is a late bus that departs from Norristown Area School District at 4:15 p.m.



Surprisingly, it's the increase in self-confidence, not the improvement in grades, that is usually the most significant benefit of tutoring. Once students have a better understanding of the material, the

frustration, anxiety and apprehension around schoolwork often disappears. This confidence boost is often more than just academic. This change in attitude typically carries over to social and home life as well.

Free after-school tutoring is just one of many programs offered at the Norristown Area School District to help us achieve our mission which is "to educate all students to become responsible, thinking, creative, literate citizens who

strive for personal excellence, function successfully and enrich society."

For information about other activities and programs, contact the Norristown High School guidance department at 610-630-5080.

—SAVE THE DATE—

Greater Norristown Youth Rally

Saturday, June 16, 2012 Noon-3 p.m. (rain or shine!)

Greater Norristown Police Athletic League, 340 Harding Boulevard, Norristown

How Parents Can Help With Homework



Show that you think homework is important.

Tell your child how important school is for their future.

Set a regular time.

Establish a set time each day for doing homework. Don't leave homework until just before bedtime. Weekends are the best time for working on projects.

Pick a place in your home that has no distractions.

Avoid rooms with televisions or any other distractions, such as people coming and going.

Be involved.

Show your child that the skills they are learning in school are related to things you do everyday as an adult.

Monitor assignments.

When your child asks for help with their homework provide guidance, not answers. This will help them learn the material.

Ask about homework.

Stayed informed about what the child's expectations are for the school year.

Look over assignments.

If your child knows you are going to look over assignments on a daily basis, they may be more inclined to try harder.

Watch for frustration.

Have your child do the hard work first. Leave the less stressful homework for last.

Work with the teacher.

Cooperate with the teacher. It shows your child that the school and home are a team.

Give praise.

It is important to acknowledge when your child does well in school.



21st Century Community Learning Center Grant

Norristown Area School District was awarded a federally funded 21st Century Community Learning Center grant that will provide an after-school program in all three middle schools at no cost to families.

The program will run Mondays through Thursdays, **March 12-June 7**, from **3:30-6:30 p.m.** A summer camp during the month of July will also be scheduled.

Eisenhower Middle School

1601 Markley Street
Norristown, PA 19401
610-277-8720

Stewart Middle School

1315 W. Marshall Street
Norristown, PA 19401
610-275-6870

East Norriton Middle School

330 Roland Drive
Norristown, PA 19401
610-275-6520

Norristown High School

1900 Eagle Drive
Norristown, PA 19403
610-630-5090

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Communities That Care
3125 Ridge Pike
Norristown, PA 19403
Phone: 610-630-2111 ext. 236
Fax: 610-630-4003
info@norristownctc.org
www.NorristownCTC.org

Communities That Care (CTC) is a risk-focused approach to reducing adolescent problem behaviors through community mobilization and planning. Local citizens and community leaders work together to identify the risk factors that increase the likelihood of problem behaviors developing, and enhance the protective factors that can shield youngsters from problems. The risk and protective factors are used to implement a comprehensive plan to step ahead of the problems with far-reaching and long-lasting solutions.

What is **BACKTALK** Youth Group?



By Jasmine Hanna, Danielle Smith, Tony Smith, Brandon Phillip, Shakyah Anderson, and Keisha Gowe

BACKTALK is a community youth group that ranges from 8th-12th grade. Not only do we lead by example, but we educate the community on the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse.

Our goal for the coming year is to keep kids drug and alcohol free. How we plan on doing this is by educating, mentoring and hosting different activities that will deter the youth in the community from engaging in these illegal behaviors.

Our group participates in many different activities to prevent underage drinking and/or drug use. We assist with fundraisers for the community, Sticker Shock program, Don't Smoke Your Future campaign, and the DUI Simulator day.

We chose to be involved with BACKTALK because we like to make a difference and because it is such a fun program! Join us!

To find out more about the BACKTALK Youth Group, contact Taylor Hayes at 610-630-2111 ext. 266 or thayes@fsmontco.org.