

Community Agencies Assist Alternative Education Students by Kris Griffin, Principal

Community Mental Health for Central Michigan (CMHCM) and Reed City Alternative Education are working together to provide an exciting opportunity for our students. The Social Skills Group is a class for students who are currently attending Alternative Education. The class will meet weekly for twelve weeks. The instructors for the class are Brenda Battle and Ari Koss and will be assisted by the Alternative Education teachers, Mary Allen and Karen Knapp.

The class will focus on understanding what effective communication is, understanding and practicing healthy ways of handling conflict in our lives, and developing skills related to the following topics: personal assessment and awareness; self esteem and positive self talk; self control; personal health and wellness; stress management; vision of the future; risk taking and decision making; diversity; and social support and community.

Ten-Sixteen Recovery Network is also coming into Reed City Alternative Education to do a program called Project Success. Kim Livingston is the instructor for this class. We are very fortunate to have Kim coming into our schools. She worked for many years at Human-Aid prior to their office being closed. Many of our students are familiar with Kim as she taught the Duncan series in our elementary school.

Project Success focuses on drug and alcohol prevention and education. Many of our students are faced with these challenges each day, either for themselves, a family member or a friend. We are hoping that this will provide them with the knowledge and resources available to stay out of trouble with drugs and/or alcohol.

Another agency that will be working with our students later in the school year is WISE. This agency will provide information to our students on domestic and sexual violence. Many of our students are in dating situations that may not be ideal and are not sure what to do to get them out of the situation. This will teach our students how to have healthy relationships.

Our students have also offered their help in the community this school year. They have assisted in the coat drive, the county Christmas food drive, and will be participating in the Bowl for Kids Sake for Muskegon River Valley Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Reed City Area Public Schools is very grateful to have community agencies offer their resources to our students. Working together CAN make a difference in the life of a child.