



Weekly Digest of COMMUNITY SCHOOLS Updates

October 9, 2019

NEW

HOPE SQUAD | STUDENTS HELPING STUDENTS

The Hope Squad is a new school-based peer support program that empowers selected students to take action to improve the school environment. Through a collective partnership between Abby's Paws, Chemung County and the Elmira City School District, Hope Squads are being created across the District.

At the primary levels, Elementary students will focus on self-esteem, positive self-image, coping strategies, and positive choices.

At the secondary level (7-12), the Hope Squad will be a support team of partners with local mental health agencies. Peers will select students who are trustworthy and caring individuals to join the Hope Squad. Squad members will be trained to watch for at-risk students, provide friendship, identify suicide-warnings, and seek help from adults.

HOPE Squad members are not taught to act as counselors, but rather, are educated on how to recognize signs of suicide contemplation, and how to properly and respectfully report this to an adult. Hope Squads are the eyes and ears of your school. They are comprised of students who are trained to watch for at-risk students—provide friendship, identify warning signs, and seek help from adults.

CONTACTS

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