

Jose Libano, Ed. D.
Interim Principal
Shannon Adalio, M. Ed.
Assistant Principal
Sarah Courtemanche-O'Brien, M. Ed.
Assistant Principal

Smithfield High School

90 Pleasant View Avenue
Smithfield, Rhode Island 02917-1845
Tel: (401) 949-2050
Fax: (401) 949-2052
<https://sentinel.smithfield-ps.org/>



Fall '23

Dear SHS Families,

For several years now, Smithfield HS, along with 79 other Rhode Island secondary schools, has been implementing a Student Assistance Program based on a national model called Project SUCCESS. The program is provided by Rhode Island Student Assistance Services (RISAS) and is funded by the Rhode Island Department of Behavioral Health and the school department.

The goals of Project SUCCESS are to prevent and reduce substance use and to improve school performance. The program provides school-wide awareness, classroom presentations and individual and small group sessions to teach about the effects of substance use and skills to resist pressures to use substances.

Mr. Keith Croteau, our new Student Assistance Counselor will implement Project SUCCESS prevention and education activities at Smithfield HS. He works full-time and is available to meet with parents. Mr. Croteau has a Master's Degree in School Counseling, as well as specialized training in substance use prevention and mental health promotion. The Student Assistance Counselor is an employee of RISAS and is supervised by RISAS and our school.

Mr. Croteau is available to see students who are experiencing personal, school, or family problems that could put them at risk of substance use or other unhealthy behaviors. If you are worried about your child, reach out to him or encourage your child to connect directly with him at school. You can reach him at extension 2447 or via email at kcroteau@smithfield-ps.org. Communications will be confidential.

This program has helped many students make responsible choices and has helped others get outside help for related problems. To evaluate the effectiveness and improve the program, the state requires us to collect data from students who participate during the school year. No names are on any collected data.

If, for any reason, you do not want your child to be seen by the Student Assistance Counselor, please contact the Student Assistance Counselor or me directly. We are very pleased to offer this valuable program to the students in our school.

Also, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about the program.

Jose Libano

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Interim Principal

◆ *New England Association of Schools and Colleges Member* ◆

The Smithfield School Department does not discriminate on the basis of age, sex, race, religion, national origin, color, disability, or sexual orientation in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.