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District to crack down on substance abuse

By Noreen Flack
staff writer

FARMINGTON Public Schools is getting tough with substance abusers and smokers through revisions to the Student Code of Conduct.

The intent is to promote a healthier lifestyle for students, said district officials.

"The code of conduct in the past was just too broad regarding substance abuse," said Mary Lou Ankele, assistant superintendent for special services. "The changes are much more specific for the whole district to be treated the same."

This fall, students found smoking, using illegal drugs or misusing over-the-counter drugs will face strict penalties by the school district. All schools will follow the same guidelines for discipline, Ankele said.

To make the substance abuse section more specific, school officials worked with local police, Farmington Families in Action, local clergy and the county health department as a health advisory committee to establish proper code changes.

"If we don't link with other groups in the community to properly address the problem, it will never be solved," Ankele said.

"WE LOOKED at codes of con-



Mary Lou Ankele
assistant superintendent

duct from other school districts and came up with what we thought was workable," said Betty Nicolay, Farmington Families in Action director and a health advisory committee member.

Farmington schools were "very loose" with regulations against substance abuse in the past, Nicolay said.

The code was changed in categories 5-7.

Category 5 prohibits use or possession of tobacco on school property or at school activities.

A student caught smoking will be suspended for five days. A conference with a parent or guardian will be arranged, and police will be notified.

Farmington High administrators handled student smokers last year by confiscating cigarettes and placing student smokers on an in-house suspension for one to three days, said Jerry Potter, Farmington High principal.

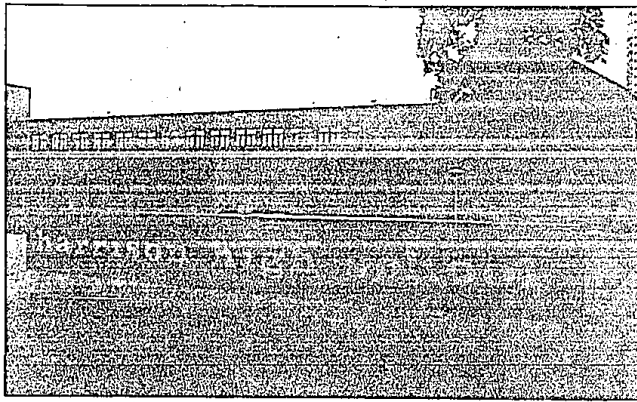
Although other schools have not condoned smoking in the past, they have not done enough to restrict students from smoking on school grounds, Ankele said.

CATEGORY 6 prohibits use or possession of drugs or alcohol.

Materials will be confiscated, a conference will be arranged with parents and police will be notified if a student is found possessing drugs or alcohol on school property or at school activities. The student will be suspended.

For the first offense, the student will be suspended for up to 10 days but no less than five. Or a student may agree to a three-day suspension and 10 sessions of a drug and alcohol educational activity approved by the school.

Upon the second offense, a student will be suspended for 10 days.



A tougher student Code of Conduct is aimed at combatting substance abuse and smoking in the Farmington school district.

After the third offense, a report will be submitted to the police department, and the school will recommend to the school board that the student be expelled. The student will be suspended until the board acts upon the recommendation.

EXPULSED STUDENTS may participate in re-enrollment after participating in a state-approved rehabilitation program.

"We need to get students involved, too, so they can help their own peers

stay within the codes," Ankele said. "We are not anxious to take kids out of school, but we want them to be able to function while they are there."

Category 6 also prohibits misuse of legal or over-the-counter drugs.

Category 7 may be the "toughest" code, which leaves no room for second-time offenders.

A student found selling or distributing alcohol or drugs on school property or at school activities will

be suspended until a recommendation for expulsion is submitted and acted upon by the school board. A police report will be filed, and parents will be notified.

The Code of Conduct is the disciplinary guide for school responses on issues such as fighting and verbal abuse. The codes are reviewed every three years for changes and updates.

Each school staff will be responsible for enforcing the changes in the code, Ankele said.

Schools ready to enforce new code of conduct

By Noreen Flack
staff writer

To help students "kick the habit" of smoking, Farmington Public Schools has tightened code of conduct rules for smokers and drug users.

Last year, Harrison High students could smoke in a designated area outside the building. "Now we won't allow it," said Clayton Graham,

principal. "And it's better for us, too, because most of our staff does not smoke."

The penalty for violating the "no smoking" code may be confiscation of the cigarettes, suspension for up to five days and notification of parents or guardians.

The code change was developed by Farmington Families in Action in cooperation with police, public

health and school officials to promote a healthier lifestyle for students.

Although the code stresses penalties for both smokers and drug users, principals say they haven't had a problem with either in the past.

"The last two years have been excellent," said Jerry Potter, Farmington High principal. "Once in awhile, we still get a few kids sneaking around the auditorium (to

smoke)."

"Kids participate in the health classes and they voluntarily participate in SADD (Students Against Driving Drunk) and things like that," Graham said.

North Farmington will send a letter to inform students and parents about code changes near the end of September, said Don Cowen, principal. The school has cracked down on smokers the past few years, he said.

Last year, the penalty for smoking at North Farmington included a warning, a one-hour detention and a call home. After the second offense, the student would be suspended for three days.

inkwell

Inkwell provides news about Farmington-area primary and secondary students and education issues. The column appears monthly as part of the Observer's "School Page." Send news items to: The School Page, Farmington Observer, 43203 Grand River, Farmington 48024. Include a telephone number where a contact person can be reached during the day. Items will not be taken over the phone.

TOP TEAM

Farmington High students marched and twirled their way to first place in the senior flag corps competition at the Michigan State Fair.

After their performance, a smiling team captain, Lisa Raffie, said: "We all deserve it."

According to the judges, the Farmington team scored high in both showmanship and spirit.

PRINCIPALS SEMINAR

Gerald Potter, Farmington High principal, attended the Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals Principals Center at the Eastern Michigan University Corporate Education Center.

The four-day seminar concentrated on improvement. School improvement is an organized model to improve both the quality and equity of education.

The 20-hour program was headed by Larry Lesotte, director of the National Center for Effective Schools, and Dennis Sparks, director of the National Staff Development Council.

Mario Aratari, Richard Culp and Jerry Potter gave presentations using the Farmington High Improvement Model. Eighty-two principals and assistant principals from high schools and middle schools across the state took part.

SUMMER EXPLORATION

Matthew Ellison of Farmington participated in Michigan Technological University's Summer Youth Program.

Each student has the chance to take part in one of 55 weeklong explorations.

Program design focuses on career exploration and development of new skills through laboratory, classroom and field experiences. Each exploration

is directed by a Michigan Tech member or a specialist in that area of study.

A Farmington High School Junior, Eliason participates in basketball and is active in the National Republican Committee.

NEW GRADUATE

Michael Krygier of Northville graduated from The Gunnery, Washington, Conn. He was one of 81 graduating seniors in this year's class. Krygier was a member of the New England championship hockey team this year. He will attend the University of Connecticut in the fall.

MILITARY SCHOOL

Tideus Zack of Farmington Hills spent six weeks at the Howe Military School Summer Camp in Howe, Ind., this summer.

His mother report that he received excellent grades in math, English and a beginning computer class — the three academic classes required. He was promoted to sergeant as well as cabin leader, during which he was responsible for 17 other students.

Zack received a gold medal in swimming and a silver medal in drill with weapons.

He also received a riflery award, a survival award, a scouting award, a one-mile swim award, a nature study award, a drill with weapons award, an archery award, a land navigation award, a Bible award, a fishing award, two handicraft awards and two swimming certificates issued by Red Cross.

Zack is a seventh grader at Power Middle School, Farmington Hills.

EARN A SCHOLARSHIP

A \$10,000 college scholarship is the top prize available to high school seniors through Century III Leaders.

Century III Leaders will award 500 scholarships totaling \$250,000 at the state and national levels to students with a proven record of leadership and academic success, along with a vision about the challenges America will face in the next century.

Century III Leaders is funded by the Shell Oil Co. Foundation and administered by the National Association of Secondary School Principals. Students attending accredited public, private and parochial schools are eligible to enter.

Deadline for entering this year's competition is Oct. 19. Applications are available through school principals.

Each student is required to take a current events test and write a two-paragraph "Projection for Innovative Leadership," describing a problem affecting America and proposing a solution.

Participating schools choose a winner who advances to the state level. A selection committee in each state and the District of Columbia name two winners and two runners-up, following interviews with 10 state finalists.

The winners each receive a \$1,500 scholarship advance to the national level; the runners-up each earn a \$500 scholarship. The remaining six finalists in each state receive a \$100 scholarship award.

In March, 100 state winners attend the all-expense-paid Century III Leaders national conference in Williamsburg, Va., where they compete for the top scholarship. Century III Leaders bear nationally prominent speakers, participate in leadership seminars, debate significant issues confronting America and negotiate platform positions.

On the final evening of the conference, one national winner is awarded an additional \$10,000 college scholarship and nine runners-up receive additional \$500 scholarships.

All state finalists and runners-up become members of the Century III Leaders Alumni program, making them eligible for annual grants of \$5,000 for post-graduate study or public service projects.

For further information, write Century III Leaders, National Association of Secondary School Principals, 1904 Association Drive, Reston, Va. 22091.

FOOD PROGRAM

Adat Shalom Nursery School in Farmington Hills is a sponsor of the Michigan Department of Education Child Care Food Program.

Meals are available at no separate charge to all children 12 or younger, migrant children 15 or younger and older handicapped children who are enrolled in Adat Shalom Nursery School.

No child will be discriminated against because of race, color, national origin, sex, age or handicap.

KIDS

BE TRUE TO YOUR SCHOOL!

Sport the colors of your favorite team...the Spartans or the Wolverines... (Mom or Dad can help you decide). Our varsity jogging suits come in maize and blue for Michigan, green and white for MSU. Made of soft cotton/polyester, sizes 6-12-16 mos., \$23.

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