



Tuscarawas Valley Local Schools

Mark A. Murphy, Superintendent
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December 10, 2014

Ohio Department of Education
Community Connectors Grant
25 South Front Street
Columbus, Ohio

Dear Community Connectors Grant Review Team:

Over the past three years, nearly 400 seventh grade students from Tuscarawas Valley Middle School have experienced and benefited from participation in the *Anti-Virus* character development program funded by Leader's Edge, Inc. in partnership with Global Priorities Solutions.

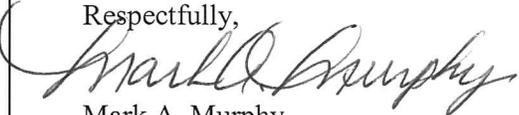
In addition to Leader's Edge, Inc., the *Anti-Virus* courses for Tusky Valley Middle School have been financially supported by Millwood Lumber, Inc., a local business who rallies behind the *Anti-Virus* mission to equip youth to live a life of strong moral character, stand for character excellence, and ultimately influence others in such a way to bring about positive change in our local communities and world.

Leader's Edge, Inc. and Millwood Lumber, Inc. are perfect examples of "community connectors" as envisioned by Governor John R. Kasich and the Ohio Legislature to intentionally bring students, families, schools, communities, faith-based groups, and businesses together to develop and implement strong youth mentoring programs such as *Anti-Virus*.

I firmly believe *Anti-Virus* is the BEST school-based character development program on the market! The student resource guide is exceptionally designed and features engaging content, relevant scenarios, and exciting graphics. Our students look forward each week to the *Anti-Virus* lesson taught by a trained facilitator. Family guides supplement the lesson and empower students to discuss the principles and character values with their parents. Imagine the future of Ohio's schools, businesses, and communities if all Ohio middle school students could experience and be impacted by *Anti-Virus*?

On behalf of the students, staff, and families of Tuscarawas Valley Local Schools, I highly recommend the support and necessary funding of the Community Connectors Grant to leverage the work of Leader's Edge and Global Priorities Solutions to develop young men and women of great character.

Respectfully,


Mark A. Murphy
Superintendent



INDIAN VALLEY

Local Schools

100 North Walnut Street, P.O. Box 171, Gnadenhutzen, Ohio 44629
Phone: (740) 254-4334 Fax: (740) 254-9271

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Superintendent

Brad Maholm
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Ryan Burrier
Curriculum Director

Talia St. Clair
Director of Special
Education

Jodi Hillyer
Superintendent
Secretary / EMIS
Coordinator

December 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in regards to *Anti-Virus*, a middle school character education program. Indian Valley Middle School is in year two of implementation, and we are extremely happy with the program. If your school is interested in helping students recognize healthy interpersonal skills and decision making strategies in the midst of a culture that often promotes the opposite, I highly recommend you consider *Anti-Virus* too.

As Superintendent of Schools, I am often asked by parents and community members what we are doing to teach our students to be responsible citizens and good neighbors. They are always please when I describe *Anti-Virus*, which promotes healthy perspectives on an array of issues such as:

- Anti-bullying
- Use of social media
- Drug and alcohol addiction
- Tobacco
- And much more

To intentionally instruct on responsible decision making is timely for all middle students, regardless of demographics.

Additionally, we are grateful to Leaders Edge, who provides the resources to make *Anti-Virus* a reality at our middle school. Leaders Edge covers the cost of the curriculum for each student in the program and furnishes a facilitator to deliver the content as well. Leaders Edge has removed the two main barriers that often prevent schools from implementing such a program: finances and asking teachers to do one more thing.

If I can be of any further assistance regarding *Anti-Virus*, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Ira Wentworth
Superintendent
Indian Valley Local Schools

NEWCOMERSTOWN MIDDLE SCHOOL

NMS
325 West State Street
Newcomerstown, Ohio 43832
740.498.8151



TROJAN PRIDE IS ALIVE!

Jason Peoples, Principal
740.227.0326
Fax: 740.498.4991
peoplesja00@staff.netschools.org

Dec. 5th, 2014
Re: Anti-Virus Program
From: Newcomerstown Middle School

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is written with the intent to recommend the Anti-Virus Program Middle School Program for schools. This program was brought to Newcomerstown Middle School two years ago by Mr. Ted Gerber. Mr. Gerber contacted our district administration in person and outlined what the program had to offer, goals of the program and sample materials to look over before making our decision. The overall need for a student center program such as Anti-Virus this, combined with the leadership of Mr. Gerber and the funding from Leaders Edge, made the decision simple to bring to our school.

With the support of Leaders Edge, an Anti-Virus Instructor was assigned to us. For the past two years, our staff has been able to work with Mrs. Kris Warkall. Mrs. Warkall understands students, and can manage classrooms as effectively as any full time staff member. This proves to me that the leadership and organization of Leaders Edge and Mr. Gerber are diligent in finding the right person to interact with our young people.

The program itself discusses the difficult topics facing children. Topics that parents, teachers and administrators may be cautious with or avoid for whatever reason. Some of those topics include sexual activity, following bad examples, and addictions. The Anti-Virus staff acknowledges that these issues are real and discusses them on the student's level. Students become more and more comfortable as the program progresses, and become more active using positive choice strategies outside of the Anti-Virus classroom. Newcomerstown Middle School staff noticed the program making a positive impact almost immediately after the program's inception.

Without hesitation, I highly recommend the Anti-Virus program be expanded to more schools and more children. Our students are being taught the skills now that ultimately will make our schools, homes and communities better places in the future. Please feel free to use the contact information above to reach me if you have any further questions about this "must-have" program.

Yours in Education,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jason C. Peoples'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jason C. Peoples, Principal



Indian Valley Middle School

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www.ivschoools.org

Brent Carter
Principal

December 17, 2014

Scott Beckley
Assistant Principal

Jessica Swaldo
School Counselor

Deana LaCroix
Secretary

Kaila McPeck
Secretary

To Whom It May Concern,

It is my pleasure to write this letter on behalf of the Anti-Virus program provided through Leader's Edge. We are very pleased to be able to offer this program to our 8th grade students at Indian Valley Middle School, and will continue to provide this program for our students for as long as it will be offered! As the building Principal, I love the program because it provides our students with a character education program that will serve our students well in their future.

Through Leader's Edge we have been able to provide this critical character education program for 2 years. Our anti-Virus instructor, Kris Warkall does an outstanding job with our students! She provides a wonderful curriculum for our students, and she has established a wonderful rapport with our students and staff.

In closing, I know first-hand the importance of a high value system in an educational setting. This is what we look for in the teachers and support staff that we hire at Indian Valley Local Schools. These are the very character traits that the anti-Virus program fosters in our students! This is an EXCELLENT program for students!

Sincerely,

Brent C. Carter
Principal

Miller Avenue Elementary School
Dundee Elementary School
December 10, 2012

To Whomever It May Concern:

We are just finishing up the 10 week Anti-Virus Program here at Miller Avenue School and Dundee School. The Coordinator for our Garaway School District was Mr. Ted Gerber and the classroom instructor for the program was Mrs. Kris Warkall. They did an excellent job with the Anti-Virus Program, which was very well received by the sixth grade students and staff, the grade level chosen for the program in our schools.

Assessing the overall impact of a program, especially in its first year of inception in our schools, is not an easy task. However, I will readily admit that our sixth grade students this year have developed into good role models and leaders for the younger children. We have seen youngsters who were chronically receiving after-school detention and Saturday School for misconduct and homework issues become mature, responsible students. In the past two months, we have only had one sixth grader receive an after-school detention, and not a single sixth grade pupil has been assigned to Saturday School. In addition, one young sixth grade boy who has been on an individual student behavior plan for numerous discipline and homework incidents and even a suspension from school last year, has not received a single discipline report since October 15th. Again, there may be a number of factors that have influenced our sixth grade students, but I am quite certain that the Anti-Virus Program has played a positive role in the overall attitude and achievement of the young people participating in the program.

I sincerely hope that we will be able to continue with the Anti-Virus Program in our schools in the future. Thank you for making it possible to share the program with our boys and girls.

Sincerely,



Larry Compton, Miller Avenue and Dundee Principal



Claymont Jr. High School
215 East Sixth Street - Uhrichsville, OH 44683

December 23, 2014

To Whom It May Concern,

Claymont Jr. High

Testimonial for Anti-Virus program

I feel the Anti-Virus is an important program added in our Jr. High School. We have an eighth grade student that I feel has been influenced directly from the Anti-Virus program she completed in the seventh grade. While in the seventh grade "Susie" wasn't a huge trouble maker but did have some issues throughout the school year. Some of the "viruses" that affected her were selfishness, negative thoughts, and following bad examples. On many occasions when a teacher would speak to her about issues that were going on, she would be rude and condescending.

This year as an eighth grade "Susie" has changed her demeanor towards teachers and fellow students. She has become a leader in many ways on the sporting fields and in the class rooms. She has won an award given out by the teachers and administration called "Student of the Month" She won the award for November, while being nominated in every month of the school year to date. Just recently she bought every single student in our Multiple Handicapped room an individual Christmas gift based on things they liked.

**Submitted by an Anti-Virus Mentor
(NOTE- Student name change for privacy)**

Ben was a 6th grade Anti-Virus student of mine. He comes from a broken home where his mother works long hours and where he is often left to be supervised by his older siblings.

He is a student who often struggles in school. On week four of the Anti-Virus course we do a lesson on ambition. After we read through and discuss the character value of ambition the students are encouraged to rate themselves on how ambitious they are. The rating scale is from one to ten. (One being not very ambitious and ten being highly ambitious). They are then encouraged to write down one thing they can work on during the week to increase their rating.

At the time of this lesson, Ben was very behind on his accelerated reading (AR) points. Ben decided to increase his ambition rating he would choose to catch up on his AR points.

The next week when I got to the classroom Ben was so excited to see me. He told me that he had exceeded his AR goal for the week. Each week he would update me on where he was with his AR points. By the end of the Anti-Virus course Ben went from being one of the students with the lowest AR points to being one of the highest in his class.

Ben recently had a friend spend the night and I was told the purpose of the sleepover was so that the boys could study together. It has been exciting to see this student really take hold of the character values we have been discussing each week and begin to apply them to his life. He is recognizing the difference it is making in his own life as a student and motivating him to apply the other character values as well.