

Welcome to Norfolk Senior High PEER MEDIATION!!

- **WHAT IS PEER MEDIATION?**

Mediation is a step-by-step process in which a neutral third party guides two people in conflict to come up with solutions that meet their interests or needs. Norfolk Senior High has trained students to become peer mediators. These peer mediators will then help other students resolve conflicts.

- **WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF PEER MEDIATION?**

Peer mediation offers the students of Norfolk Senior High the option of working out their conflicts in a safe environment with a neutral third party. In many cases, it may prevent physical fights from occurring. It gives students the opportunity to learn conflict resolution skills they will use for the rest of their lives.

- **WHO WILL BE COORDINATING THE PEER MEDIATION PROGRAM**

Mrs. Rhonda Collins who is the vocational high school counselor, has been Trained in basic mediation, and is the program coordinator.

- **WHAT KINDS OF CONFLICTS OR SITUATIONS CAN BE REFERRED TO MEDIATION?**

Any conflict not involving physical fighting can be referred to mediation – rumors, name-calling, bias or prejudice, harassment, property loss or damage, threats and relationship problems are the primary reasons for mediation.

- **WHO CAN REFER STUDENTS TO MEDIATION?**

Anyone can refer students to mediation. Teachers, parents and administrators may refer. Students can also self-refer. The guidance office has a locked box for anyone who wants to refer anonymously. Mrs. Collins would be the contact person for referral to mediation.

- **WHO ARE THE PEER MEDIATORS AND ARE THEY TRAINED?**

The peer mediators have indicated an interest in becoming mediators. They have filled out an application, interviewed and have completed an extensive two day training. Mediators continue to meet as a group and complete refresher trainings

each year they are in mediation. Mrs. Collins supervises all mediators as well as all mediations that take place.

- **WHAT ETHICS GOVERN THE PEER MEDIATORS?**

Mediators must maintain confidentiality and remain neutral. They have to be aware of their biases and choose to decline mediations in which their biases will influence their mediation abilities. Mediators must also decline mediations in which there is a conflict of interest.

- **WHERE DO MEDIATIONS TAKE PLACE?**

Mediations take place in a private room in the high school building.

- **WHAT PERIODS OF THE DAY WILL MEDIATIONS OCCUR?**

Mediations can be held any period throughout the day. The mediation coordinator will look at the schedules of the students accessing mediation and decide which period will be most convenient for them both. Then from the pool of mediators, it is decided who is able to mediate the conflict at that time.

- **WHO CAN I CONTACT IF I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS ABOUT PEER MEDIATION IN THE FUTURE?**

You may contact the peer mediation coordinator, Mrs. Rhonda Collins, who is located in the high school guidance office. You may also contact a high school administrator, teacher or any of the high school guidance counselors for more information on mediation.