

### How are Employment & Life Skills Offered?

A Linkages staff member is available specifically to help students complete job applications, write resumes, practice interviewing skills, and find a job.



Special attention is given to the student's individual interests to ensure a good job placement. Special assistance is also given to students whose families are having financial difficulties.

Through the Linkages program these students and their families are connected with community resources that offer cash assistance programs, food, clothing, and emergency housing.

### How are Recreational Services Offered?

Recreational services are offered both through the Linkages Drop-In Center as well as through a variety of trips offered to participants throughout the year. The Drop-In Center, which is staffed by an employee of Middle Earth, is located in the Linkages office area



and provides a chance for students to relax during their lunch period. Wii games and board games are just some of the FREE amenities offered in the

Drop-In Center. Recreational outings include trips to the beach and amusement parks. These trips are offered at a greatly reduced cost to students participating in the Linkages program. Students are also encouraged to get involved with the Middle Earth Drop-In Center located in Somerville and in Bound Brook. They are open 3-7 pm Monday through Thursday and 3-8 pm on Friday.



### **Linkages Program Staff**

*Elaine M. Howe, Director of Linkages*

*Donna Lenox, Substance Abuse/Mental Health Counselor*

*Bridget Donovan, Life Skills Counselor/Twilight Recruiter*

*Cathy Bladt, Mental Health Counselor*

*Isaiah Davenport, Recreation Coordinator*

*Rose Murtagh, Linkages Administrative Secretary*

### **Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders**

*Patricia L. Walsh, Director*

*Peter S. Palmer, Deputy Director*

*Patrick Scaglione, Mark Caliguire, Brian D. Levine*

### **Somerset County Vocational Board of Education**

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*Sarah Costa Vice President*

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*Theodore Smith, Board Member*

*Juan Torres, Board Member*

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### **High School Administration**

*Chrys Harttraft, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools*

*Raelene Catterson, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary*

*Diane M. Ziegler, Principal*

*Maria C. Johnson, Director of Pupil Services*

*Teresa A. Morelli, Supervisor of Academics*

*Randee Holz, Supervisor of Academics*

*Patrick J. Pelliccia, Supervisor of Curriculum & Instruction*

### **Somerset County Vocational School District's Affirmative Action Policy**

*To provide equal educational opportunities regardless of sex, race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, age, sexual orientation, handicap, or social/economic status. Contact Teresa Morelli, Title IX & Affirmative Action Officer, 908-526-8900, x7157.*



## **LINKAGES**

A School Based Youth Services Program  
Funded by the State Department of  
Children and Families/Division of  
Prevention and Community Partnerships



## **Let's Connect!**

**(908)526-8900 x7284**

Somerset County  
Vocational & Technical Schools  
Attn: Linkages Office  
PO Box 6350  
14 Vogt Drive  
Bridgewater, NJ 08807



### What is Linkages?

Linkages is one of 90 School-Based Youth Services programs funded by the State of New Jersey. These programs are designed to enable teens to complete their education and lead emotionally and physically healthy lives by offering counseling, job placement, life skills and recreation to the students on site at no cost. Linkages provides students with an array of services at one location -- SCVTHS.

The Linkages School Based program enhances the school's existing services by bringing community based services to adolescents in need. The Linkages team comprises school staff and professionals from two different Somerset County agencies: **Family and Community Services and Middle Earth.**



### Who Does Linkages Serve?

Linkages offers year round FREE services to all SCVTHS students (this includes all full-time, shared-time, and Twilight students) who are between 14 and 21 years old. Students under the age of 18 are required to have a signed parental consent form in order to participate in the program.

Services are provided 7:30 am until 3:30 pm Monday through Friday during the school year and from 7:30 am until 3 pm Monday through Thursday during the summer.



### What Counseling Services are Offered?

Individual, group, and family counseling are available to all SCVTHS and Twilight students. Students seek counseling from Linkages for a variety of issues: school problems, peer pressure, anxiety, conflict resolution, substance abuse\*, depression and eating disorders. Crisis intervention services are also available to the students as needed. Referrals are made to community agencies if the program is unable to provide the assistance a student requires. Linkages staff will also make referrals if more long term intensive counseling is needed. \*Substance abuse counseling is provided to students who have a substance abuse issue or who are affected by a family member or friend who has a substance abuse problem.



### What is Twilight?

Twilight is a summer career/technical training and academic skills development program that provides services through a collaboration between Linkages and SCVTHS staff. It is designed to help prepare teens for the future by providing them with the skills, attitudes, and support needed to continue their education or to hold a job and maintain employment.

Students in the summer program receive a stipend for obtaining career and technical training.



### **Linkages...Let's Connect!**

Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School  
Attn: Linkages Office  
PO Box 6350  
14 Vogt Drive  
Bridgewater, NJ 08807  
Phone: 908-526-8900 x7284  
Fax: 908-252-3461