



OPIOID ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAM

PRESENTS

Chasing the Dragon: The Life of an Opiate Addict

Provided by the FBI Newark Citizens Academy Alumni Association

Dear Parents/Guardians,

With opioids causing more than 3,000 deaths in New Jersey in 2019, we feel that it is important to educate our youth on the dangers of drug abuse. This is why we at The Performing Arts School at bergenPAC along with the FBI Newark Citizens Academy Alumni Association, Hackensack Meridian Health, and Lakeland Bank have partnered to present the program "Chasing the Dragon" about Opioid Abuse Awareness. The program includes a video following the personal stories of opioid addicts as well as their families, explaining the dangerous and heartbreaking effects of drug abuse. After viewing the video, the students will then see a presentation by an FBI agent and a renowned orthopedic surgeon, furthering their understanding of the opioid epidemic, the drug's effects, and the consequences of addiction. In addition, there will also be an art and writing contest that students can participate in that will be led by Derick Cross, bergenPAC hip-hop and visual art teaching artist. A winner from each school will be chosen to receive an award from the FBI Newark Citizens Academy Alumni Association.

We encourage you to speak to your child about choosing a drug-free lifestyle before watching the presentation. Please allow your child to continue the conversation about drug abuse at home and encourage them to ask you questions. Together, we can help bring an end to drug abuse.

Thank you so much for allowing your child to participate in our program. We hope you and your family stay safe and provide an open environment to talk to your child about drug abuse. We are asking students to pledge to choose a life free of opioids and all drugs.

Sincerely,

The Performing Arts School at bergenPAC,
FBI Newark Citizens Academy Alumni Association,
Lakeland Bank,
and Hackensack Meridian Health