

What happens after I give my written permission?

There are several steps that the team will take after you agree to have your child participate in the START process. The START team will gather specific information about your child's performance in school from all school staff who have contact with your child. A START team member will speak with you either in person or over the phone about our collective observations, highlighting both your child's current strengths, and any observable behaviors of real concern. If needed, we will work with you to develop a plan of action to help your child overcome any current obstacles to their own learning. START will offer suggestions, school related services and activities to provide support for your child. We share our available resources within the local LMSD community with families. And, we will always give you options on how to connect with others who may also be able to help your child, if desired. The START team will remain in contact with your family regarding your child's progress throughout the entire process.



START team contact information:

Kristy Fruit	Assistant Principal & Administrative START team leader	Fruitk@lmsd.org 610-658-3926
Beth Cooke	6th Grade School Counselor	Cookeb@lmsd.org 610-658-3942
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Josh Gansky	8th Grade School Counselor	Ganskyj@lmsd.org 610-658-3941
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Welsh Valley Middle School

START Program



A Family Guide

What is START??

The WVMS START Team is to discuss students referred to START. We are available to help families access school and community based services.

We do not diagnose, treat, or refer your child for treatment. We will provide you with information and feedback so that you may make the choice that works best for your family. As the parent/guardian, you are an important member of the team.

Have you observed Your Child Showing Any of These Signs?

- *Sudden drop in grades*
- *Easily frustrated with schoolwork*
- *Withdrawing from friends*
- *Unexplained physical injuries*
- *Self-Injury*
- *Depression or Anxiety*
- *Defying authority, both at home and at school*
- *Noticeable changes in eating patterns*
- *Lying*
- *Needing money without an explanation*
- *Experimenting with drugs or alcohol*

Are You Concerned About Your Child's Reaction to....?

- *A Recent death of a loved one*
- *A recent Divorce of parents*
- *A Family relocation*
- *A relationship problem*
- *A traumatic event*

How Does My Child Become Involved in the START Program?

Anyone may refer a WVMS student to the START team. Students are referred by school personnel, a friend, peer, or family member. Once we have received written parental consent, we will begin to take a closer look at potential barriers to learning in the following areas: Attendance, Behavior, Health, & Academics.



What if Someone Has Referred My Child to START?

A START team member will contact you directly regarding your child's referral to START. We will offer support and resources if needed.

The WVMS START team recognizes you possess great knowledge and understanding of your child. Your involvement in the START process is of utmost importance to us.

Concerns about privacy?

The START team will *always* respect you and your child's privacy .