



OFFICE OF SCHOOL SERVICES

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Dear Parents,

Shelby County Schools has implemented the School House Adjustment Program Enterprise (S.H.A.P.E.) to provide an alternative to Juvenile Court. The intent of the program is to reduce the number of students issued a Juvenile Summons for minor infractions of the law and obtaining a juvenile record. This is an after school program students will attend for six weeks (twice weekly) while participating in the Mendez Curriculum called "Too Good for Drugs and Violence". The program will be led by a site coordinator at your student's school. Students are referred to the program for the following charges: Assault (minor injuries); Disorderly Conduct; Criminal Trespassing; Gambling; Possession of Marijuana; Vandalism Under \$500.00; Theft Under \$500.00; Possession of Drug Paraphernalia; and Possession of Alcohol.

The student must meet eligibility requirements prior to being referred to the program, which include: must be under the age of 18 (at time of the incident); no previous contact with Juvenile Court within the past 12 months; no felonies or charges resulting in serious bodily harm; no gang related incidents; and committed offense(s) must occur on participating school grounds; This is a voluntary program for students; however, if the student refuses to participate in the program, a juvenile summons will be issued for the related offense and forwarded to Juvenile Court. Upon successful completion, no action will be taken by the Juvenile Court System for the offense.

The program is a collaboration with the Shelby County Mayor's Office, Sheriff's Department, Juvenile Court, District Attorney's Office, City of Memphis Mayor's Office and the Memphis Police Department. According to research from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Programs, youths that participate in diversion programs are less likely to progress further into the criminal justice system as an adult.

Additional benefits to the program are allowing students to continue with their academic studies, monitoring behavioral progress while in the program, and working to improve student's social skills, character education and intervention when needed. The most important benefit of the program is preventing students from receiving a juvenile record while helping students to establish positive relationships with school staff and other adults, and holding them responsible for their behavior and actions.

To learn more about the S.H.A.P.E. program, please visit the website at <http://www.scsk12.org/uf/shape/> or contact John Hall at (901) 416-6259 or halljt@scsk12.org.