

January 19, 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian:

We are pleased to inform you that we have contracted with Astor Services for Children & Families to provide a mental health clinic in the New Paltz High School. The clinic will have an Astor therapist in the High School three days per week from 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. This office will serve as a satellite of the Astor Counseling Center in New Paltz.

Any student of New Paltz High School who would like to attend therapy on a regular basis can have their parent contact the New Paltz clinic to arrange for an intake appointment. As a satellite site of the Astor clinic in New Paltz, sessions through this office will go through your insurance and you will be billed for any co-payments. Additionally, children seen at this office for counseling will be able to access psychiatric services through Astor at the clinic in New Paltz and eventually through telepsychiatry at the school clinic. The idea of this satellite clinic is so that students who would like to attend therapy, but have difficulty getting to the New Paltz clinic, can be seen at the satellite site during the school day. It will also be available to any student in crisis who self-refers.

The clinician at the New Paltz High School clinic will be Melanie Desrosier, MHC. Ms. Desrosier will also provide family therapy, and will be in the school until 6:00 p.m. to accommodate parents' schedules. Also, the High School clinic will remain open through the summer to provide consistency of treatment.

We anticipate opening this clinic by early February. Appointments can be made by calling the New Paltz Astor Clinic at 845-419-0850 (let them know you are calling to arrange an intake appointment at the New Paltz High School satellite clinic). If your child is already being seen at the Astor Clinic in New Paltz and you would prefer to have them seen at the High School you can speak to their therapist to arrange the transfer. After the clinic opens, the contact number will be 845-256-4190.

Astor requests that the family be present for the initial intake assessment to sign consent for treatment and provide history. If your child is referred by a school staff person, Astor would need your consent to be able to speak to anyone at the school or to speak to your child prior to a full intake assessment. A consent form is enclosed for you convenience.

If you have any questions regarding this New Paltz High School clinic and the services that will be provided, feel free to contact Sandy Essington LCSW-R from Astor at 845-452-6077 ext. 129.

Sincerely,



Maria C. Rice
Superintendent of Schools