

ASK Program Profile

1. **WHAT IS IT?** ASK is a fixture at Hall High School with a glorious, over 35 year history. We often refer to the **ASK Experience** because there is much more to ASK than just the classes.

Basically, ASK is a team taught, interdisciplinary program that offers one credit in English (Modern World Literature, Contemporary Writing, Literature and Society) and one in social studies (Society, Family, Community; Contemporary Social Problems; Issues in American Society) along with support services. The classes focus on themes and world issues in contemporary society. Topics are combined or taught separately, but each subject requires reading, writing, thinking and discussing relevant issues. You will receive a separate grade and credit for each course (see course descriptions). Your English credit counts towards your literature and writing requirements, while the social studies credit goes towards American government and general social studies. In addition, you will receive mentoring, support, and assistance for

2. **WHO ARE WE?** Mr. Jim Solomon (Sol), ASK Coordinator and English teacher; Mr. Jeremy Cogan (Cogs), ASK Social Studies; Ms. Chris Bivona (Mrs. B), ASK Social Worker.

3. **WHO ARE YOU?** Above all, you are unique individuals who have been recommended for this program by a staff member, peer, parent, or on your own. You also share many of the following characteristics: a) you have average to superior academic ability and the potential to do much better in school; b) somewhere in the recent past you have struggled in school or have been "turned off" in and to school; c) you have an interest in improving or making some changes in your school performance and you have **voluntarily** agreed to let ASK help you do so; d) you could use a boost in confidence; e) you enjoy a class more and perform better if you feel the teachers care about you as a person and care about who you are; f) you perform better in a class where you can make some choices about what you read/study and if you are interested in the content; g) at times, "other issues" may distract you and you could use some help with staying on track; h) you have areas of strengths as well as areas of weaknesses. By the way, your uniqueness is a strength; i) you are returning to ASK (as an ARM--ASK Role Model) because you have benefited from the program and wish to continue to do so.

4. **WHAT WILL ASK DO FOR YOU?** ASK will give you the opportunity to improve grades, study habits, reading and writing skills. ASK will do that by offering challenging and interesting topics to study, read, watch, discuss and write about. In ASK you will find support about school and other issues to help you succeed in and out of the program. The ASK environment is helpful and positive, where you can feel comfortable expressing yourself and where you'll be treated with respect, honesty and dignity. ASK will listen to you, laugh with you, appreciate you for who you are and **help** you solve whatever difficulties school--and life--throws at you.

5. **WHAT ASK WON'T DO FOR YOU:** ASK won't disrespect you. ASK won't solve your problems or do your work for you. ASK won't give you an "easy out", academically or socially. ASK won't treat you like a number, won't betray your confidence*, or lose faith in your ability. ASK won't enable you by bending the rules. ASK won't invite you to return if you do not make use of the program.

6. **WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR ASK:** You can make an effort to succeed on your behalf and for yourself. You can treat your peers, your teachers and yourself with the same respect and dignity that you would like to receive. You can be honest with yourself and with the staff. You can take responsibility for your own action and inaction. Finally, you can adhere to the rules of the program that are designed to help you succeed.

7. **HOW CAN YOU SEE THE AS STAFF?** Conferences are available before, during or after school for students and parents. Schedule by calling 232-4561, ext 1018 (Sol) 1127 (Cogs) 1022 (Mrs. B) .

E-mails: Jim_Solomon@whps.org; Jerry_Cogan@whps.org; Chris_Bivona@whps.org.