

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New “Advantage After-school Program” to open at Lansingburgh’s Knickerbacker Middle School

Partnership with State OCFS, Berkshire Farm Center, and the School

Troy, New York – The Advantage After School Program in Lansingburgh School District will begin operating in mid-September 2009 at Knickerbacker Middle school. The program is free of charge and will provide a safe, fun after-school environment, encouraging students’ academic, personal, and social development for students in grades 6-8 in Lansingburgh Central School District.

The program will adhere to all School Age Child Regulations and aim to reduce negative youth behaviors such as violence and crime; tobacco, alcohol and substance abuse; as well as other health compromising behaviors by students in the time following the school day, where known risky behaviors tend to occur. Daily hours of operation will be from 2:05 pm to 5:05 pm Monday through Friday, except for school vacations, holidays, or half-days.

The Advantage After School Program at Knickerbacker Middle School is a new partnership between the New York State Office of Children and Family Services, Berkshire Farm Center, and the school. It will work in collaboration with family, school, and community partners. The funding for this program is part of a round of Advantage After School grants made available in March 2008.

Berkshire Farm Center expects a number of positive outcomes with this program. At least half of the students participating in the after school program are expected to achieve passing grades in core subjects they have previously failed. The majority of participants are expected to attend the program every day. And, many parents and guardians of the participants are expected to have at least monthly contact with program staff.

Parents/guardians interested in registering their child or who would like more information, can contact Shane Wailes at 518-649-0925 or swailes@berkshirefarm.org.

ABOUT KNICKERBACKER MIDDLE SCHOOL (www.lansingburgh.org/kms/index.php)

Knickerbacker Middle School is one of four schools in the Lansingburgh Central School District in Troy, New York. Comprising grades 6-8, Knickerbacker Middle School houses approximately 600 students and employs approximately 65 professional and support staff. It is located at 320 Seventh Avenue, Troy, NY 12182. The main telephone number is 518-233-6811. The school’s principal is Shaun Paolino. Lansingburgh Central School District’s superintendent is George Goodwin.

ABOUT BERKSHIRE FARM CENTER (www.berkshirefarm.org)

Berkshire Farm Center & Services for Youth, founded 123 years ago, is a not-for-profit corporation that provides specialized services to at-risk children and their families. Nearly 3,000 boys and girls, from newborn to 21 years of age, are served each year in Community-Based Programs. These children typically have been struggling with behavioral and emotional difficulties, family problems, physical and emotional abuse, substance abuse, and other problems. In addition to these programs, Berkshire's Residential Treatment Center in Canaan, New York serves some 600 young men with similar problems each year. They come from urban, suburban, and rural areas throughout New York State. Berkshire's Canaan campus comprises some 2,000 acres. The agency has regional and district offices around the state, as well as additional satellite locations, including group homes in Clinton, Columbia, Madison, Monroe, and Washington counties.

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