

**Connect with Kids**  
**Overview and Implementation Guide**  
for Newark Public Schools  
*Helping Youth Find their Passion ~ Follow their Dreams!*



**Connect with Kids**

***Welcome to Your Online Resource!***

Newark Public Schools is committed to the belief that children should be encouraged to find their talents, passions and gifts as inspiration in setting and reaching their goals. We believe that the hours after school can be truly instrumental in allowing our youth to explore ways that they may reach their full potential. Yet studies show that the after school hours between 3:00 and 6:00 are actually the hours of greatest risk. Teen crime, drug and alcohol use, sex and teen pregnancy – all of these get worse when kids are let out of school with no place to go. In partnership with CWK Network/*Connect with Kids* and ABC-7, Newark Public Schools is launching a community effort to be part of the solution and to provide resources to help kids identify their assets and interests and to build upon these strengths through the various after school programs available in our community.

Founded in 1998, CWK Network produces the Emmy award winning *Connect with Kids* television series, featuring real kids sharing their true stories about today's youth issues. Recently, *Connect with Kids* produced a television program that specifically addresses the after school hours entitled ***After the Bell***. This half-hour program features kids sharing their true stories about the positive impact and results from being involved in after school programs and activities. Portions of the program were taped at Newark Public Schools and include interviews with students, educators and community leaders. *Connect with Kids* also produced vignettes on the safety, health and educational challenges our kids face – from home alone safety and the need for homework help to building mentor relationships and staying fit. The show, ***After the Bell***, as well as the video vignettes, are available for viewing directly on this website, [www.connectwithkids.com/newarkpublicschools](http://www.connectwithkids.com/newarkpublicschools).

The following Implementation Guide is an overview of the *Connect with Kids* resources available to you online, as well as numerous, effective methods for using these resources at home or within your facility.



## Your Resources on the Website Include:

- This Implementation Guide, which provides ideas and suggested activities for using the campaign elements.
- Continuous Video Streaming of the Half-Hour Television Program, *After the Bell*, which can be used in a number of settings to stimulate discussions with youth, educators and parents.
- Group Discussion and Individual Self-Reflection Questions that coincide with each segmented portion of the video.
- Fact Sheets with the latest information and statistics about the hours after school and what can be done to use those challenging hours positively and productively.
- Parent Tip Sheets with expert advice to help parents find after school programs and activities, as well as suggestions for establishing rules and boundaries for when kids are home alone.
- 11 Video Streaming Vignettes that explore different facets of the hours after school and how this time can actually be key in helping kids determine their strengths, goals and passions.
- 11 Sets of Group Discussion and Individual Self-Reflection Questions to accompany each vignette that are highly engaging and thought provoking.

## Purpose of the Campaign Materials:

- **To create a common conversation about how after school programs can powerfully affect youth in determining their future**
- **To provide you with tools to reach and teach youth and families**
- **To facilitate a community dialogue around the dangers as well as the positive opportunities made available within our community during the after school hours**
- **To provide resources that reinforce what you're already doing**
- **To help raise awareness about existing after school programs and activities while mobilizing the community to take further action in an effort to help youth "find their passion and follow their dreams"**

## Using the Half-Hour Television Program

- Invite people from your organization and/or the community to a viewing party to watch ***After the Bell*** together.
- When viewing the program in a group setting, be sure to take some time following each segment to discuss what you have viewed. Use the discussion and self-reflection questions and the Fact and Parent Tip Sheets from the website to make the event a positive and educational experience.
- Assign young people in your organization the task of watching the program with their parents and using the Parent Tip Sheet to elicit meaningful dialogue.
- Allow youth to show the program to friends in their clubs or others whom they know (in classes, youth groups, church groups, etc.).
- Encourage schools in your community to use the video program and correlating resources in health classes, study halls, or during advisement periods.

## Using the *After the Bell* Discussion and Self-Reflection Questions

- Print and download the discussion and self-reflection questions by going to “Video” and clicking on each of the video segments. There you’ll find thought-provoking questions to help parents and kids understand the dangers that exist during the after school hours and how those hours can be better spent engaging in after school programs.
- Train parents and/or youth to become group discussion leaders via the discussion and self-reflection questions on the website.
- Print the discussion and self-reflection questions to use as a guide in group sessions. The discussion questions are for a group; the self-reflection questions are for individuals to reflect upon their own personal responses to issues raised in the videos.
- Post the questions on the wall to help youth continue to reflect on the after school hours and how they may be used advantageously.
- Use the questions as part of a homework assignment for youth as they discuss these issues with their parents.

## Using the Vignettes and Discussion and Self-Reflection Questions

- Instruct teachers to have students view a streaming video from the website and then follow with a class discussion using the appropriate questions. Teachers can simply discuss or they could allow students to anonymously submit their own self-reflection questions (with or without responses) as a starting point for group discussion. Suggest that this be done on a regular (weekly or daily) basis in conjunction with watching the half-hour show.
- Download and print all of the vignette questions for each student. Ask them to review them when watching each story. Students can respond anonymously in writing and then share the varying responses with the class as a whole. Use these responses to



prompt discussion of individual experiences, thoughts, and feelings about after school activities while focusing on positive behaviors.

- As a homework assignment, instruct kids to choose one of the vignettes to watch. Then have them present a synopsis to the class while incorporating the supplied questions to elicit relevant discussion. This can be done individually or in pairs or small groups. Student-created dramatizations of the stories also could be performed and then followed with class discussion.
- Instruct families to go to the website and view the vignettes together. Suggest using the discussion questions as springboards for meaningful conversation. When applicable, discuss individual experiences as a group following the assignment.

### Using the *After the Bell* Fact Sheet

- Review the Fact Sheet prior to a group viewing of *After the Bell*. After watching the video, ask participants to identify additional facts they learned or misconceptions they had prior to viewing the video.
- During a community meeting, have parents and children pair up and quiz each other on the facts. Have one group member report to the rest of the meeting something new that they learned.
- During a parent meeting, instruct parents to take the Fact Sheet home and use it as a starting point for a conversation with their children.
- When feasible, download and print the Fact Sheet for any community groups and families who may be watching the show or vignettes online.

### Using the Parent Tip Sheet

- Make copies of the Parent Tip Sheet and distribute it during a parent meeting and/or video viewing. Have the group talk about specific ways they can implement the tips with their children.
- During a parent meeting, use the Tip Sheet as a starting place for discussion and have the group brainstorm additional tips and strategies they can use with their children.
- As a group, review the Tip Sheet prior to watching *After the Bell* and/or the vignettes and have parents identify scenarios during the videos where the Tip Sheet applies.
- Encourage parents to use the Tip Sheet as a springboard for further discussion with their kids after watching the show.

## Using the Community Website

[www.connectwithkids.com/newarkpublicschools](http://www.connectwithkids.com/newarkpublicschools)

- Instruct parents to go to the website with their children and view ***After the Bell*** and/or the vignettes together.
- Ask families to use the discussion questions to begin a dialogue about how to best utilize the hours after school.
- As a homework assignment, instruct youth to view a streaming video segment online and then provide written responses to the self-reflection questions. Anonymously read the youth responses to the self-reflection questions as a starting point for group discussion.
- Have youth associated with a community program learn how to use the website at an on-site demonstration.
- Download and print any additional materials you may need for your group sessions, meetings, family viewing sessions, etc.
- Use your organization's newsletters, emails, and other communication channels to promote your efforts and the website. You can "review" each of the vignettes or any of the other materials found on the site, and then direct parents, educators, and youth to the website for further exploration.
- Continue to keep parents and students informed about the website for home use or for leading discussions in other settings (civic groups, clubs, schools, or religious meetings), being sure to point out the useful tips, facts, and discussion questions available. Show potential meeting facilitators how to access additional materials on the website.
- Start a discussion group for teens, pre-teens, and/or younger children that focuses on after school possibilities by utilizing the online resources and videos. Use the discussion and self-reflection questions on the website, as well as the tip and fact sheets to help facilitate the sessions.
- Direct educators, community leaders, and parents to sign up for flyers notifying them in advance of shows airing in your community. They can easily do so by following the directions on the first page of the website and supplying their city and state to ensure they receive a schedule for their area only.

We hope that the materials and resources on this website will help you support the ***Connect with Kids and Newark Public Schools initiative in Helping Youth Find their Passion and Follow their Dreams!***

