



CLINICAL SERVICES

The Venture Summer Program will be a *six-week-long summer extended-year program* for 13–18-year-old students with psychiatric-based educational disabilities. The program will focus on providing structured clinical support, as defined by ongoing clinical services, including crisis counseling, individual psychotherapy, and medication management. *In addition, the program will provide Social Skills and Art Therapy Group.*

The clinical focus for this summer will be the development of the core social competencies necessary for successful relationships. We will provide clinical support for each student to grow, explore, and develop social and problem-solving skills. Students will have the opportunity to explore these skills in a practical setting supported by a nurturing and therapeutic milieu. This summer learning experience will serve as a bridge between one school year and the next, offering a valuable

TARGET POPULATION

13–18-year-old students with psychiatric-based educational disabilities who are in need of an extended school year to help them retain the clinical gains made over the school year and to *develop core social competencies* of *empathy, impulse control, problem solving, and anger management.*



STRUCTURE OF THE PROGRAM

This six-week program begins on June 27, 2023 and runs Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. through August 4. Lunch will be provided for all students.

Each day will begin with a morning group where the focus will be introducing the structure of the day, including therapeutic goals. The theme of the *individual* and *group therapies* will be consistent with the *clinical goals* (see back) Mindfulness training will be an integral part of each day.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Teachers will work closely with the clinical staff to support each of the social competencies being presented at the program level.

Student academic lessons will consist of project-based learning, community-based instruction, and classroom instruction in the core content areas of language arts, science, mathematics, and social studies aligned with New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

All academic lessons will be *supported* and infused into each social competency on a weekly basis.

SUMMER ACADEMIC GOALS

- To utilize a variety of instructional strategies that address students' learning IEP objectives
- To prepare students to gain a better understanding of their learning styles and supports
- To further develop social skills
- To provide opportunities for students to become self-directed learners
- To prepare students to self-monitor and manage social and personal skill development
- To prepare students to become contributing members of society



CLINICAL SUMMER GOALS

Mindfulness Exercises

- Students will gain the knowledge to focus on the “here and now,” and utilize meditation to regulate emotion.

Identifying Feelings in Others

- Students will be able to recognize and understand others’ emotions and interpret others’ body language and non-verbal clues.

Empathy

- Students will be able to understand another person’s perspective or point of view and learn to accept and tolerate others’ differences.

Impulse Control

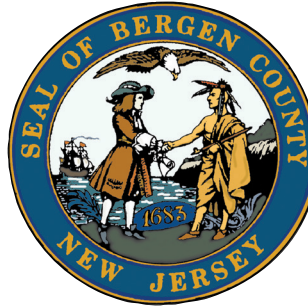
- Students will be able to stop, relax and think when experiencing strong emotions and use calming down techniques, as needed.

Problem Solving

- Students will be able to identify a problem and come up with a safe, appropriate solution.

Anger Management

- Students will be able to recognize emotional triggers and manage angry feelings in a safe and appropriate manner.



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Bergen County Special Services (BCSS) is a unique county-wide public school district that offers a broad spectrum of special education programs and services for children and adults with disabilities.

BCSS offers local school districts a wide range of programs, in the least restrictive environment, incorporating the most up-to-date technology to meet the requirements of students with diverse learning needs.



Bergen County Special Services School District

THE SUMMER AD-VENTURE PROGRAM

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