



## **Dear Parent or Guardian,**

We are thrilled that your child has expressed interest in joining Hancock Youth for Positive Efforts (HYPE) and always welcome new members throughout the year!

HYPE is designed for youth in grades 6-12 who attend traditional school, or are homeschooled, in Hancock County. This youth-led, adult-guided organization was founded in 2016 when Hancock Resource Center became the recipient of the Drug Free Communities grant, then overseen by SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) and now managed by the CDC (Center for Disease Control).

Hancock Youth for Positive Efforts empowers middle and high school students to lead engaged, healthy, and positive lifestyles. Guided by the Hancock Community Coalition, in partnership with Hancock Resource Center, HYPE serves as a resource and platform for youth to enjoy a substance-free middle and high school experience with the support of local professionals who are dedicated to promoting safe and healthy environments for everyone.

Four pillars provide a foundation for HYPE members to learn and grow upon: communication, commitment, passion, and courage. We believe these attributes are key to developing well-rounded individuals who possess strong character and serve as ambassadors for the Hancock County community, in addition to affecting positive change and setting an example for their peers.

HYPE members attend a monthly event: a meeting or a more in-depth service project we call a “HYPE Hangout.” Meetings focus on upcoming HYPE projects, community initiatives HYPE is invited to participate in, learning about the dangers of substance-use and the benefits of leading a drug and alcohol-free lifestyle, brainstorming sessions, and more! A HYPE Hangout is a community-centered initiative that involves getting out in Hancock County and beautifying a space, or finding a creative way to spread the word about HYPE and spark other service activities.

Joining HYPE as an active member opens the door for opportunities to travel to conferences across the country, fulfill service hours for graduation requirements, become a face in the community, and build a niche for youth and their peers to support one another in making good decisions.

We can't wait to see the impact your child makes, and are glad to have your support in working to promote positive, healthy lifestyles for youth in our community!