

Brent Swolsky's Meaningful Impact on SHS

This story is the first in a series spotlighting individuals in D211 schools



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For more than 22 years, Schaumburg High School counselor Brent Swolsky (B.S. Ohio State University, M.A. Roosevelt University, M.A. Ball State University) spends his days offering advice to roughly 280 students on matters ranging from social and personal to education and college and career readiness.

“I love that I get to work with students from the time they start at SHS through graduation. I enjoy watching freshmen mature each year into young adults by the time they leave. It’s very cool to watch my students grow” said Swolsky.

Additionally, Swolsky serves as the school’s staff sponsor for Operation Snowball. Operation Snowball is a state alcohol and other drug use prevention program based in Springfield, IL, which focuses on leadership development to empower youth to lead drug-free lives.

At SHS, Operation Snowball is held in the early spring each year and is open to all students. Student “staff,” who are trained throughout the year on leadership development and facilitation skills, serve as the event’s coordinators and hosts.

“I believe that Snowball is the perfect program here at SHS. Its student-driven and adult-supported allows for our leaders to develop facilitation skills and make networking connections with other schools throughout the state. I have been serving as the OS mentor since we started the program here at SHS in 2009. Each year brings a unique flavor to the club” remarked Swolsky.



Brent Swolsky has served as a counselor at SHS for more than two decades.

The Illinois Association for Behavioral Health’s (IABH) Chief Executive Officer Sara Howe presented the group’s prestigious “IABH Prevention Leadership Award” to Swolsky during a school assembly on November 15, recognizing his leadership on youth addiction prevention.

Swolsky, has been working for years with IABH's youth programs – Operation Snowball and the Cebrian Goodman Teen Institute – and has identified innovative ways to encourage students to grow their leadership skills and has provided education on healthy ways to prevent addiction, according to Howe.

SHS junior Bella Brenzinger said, “Mr. Swolsky is positive, energetic, and always seeks to brighten the day of everyone he encounters. The effort he puts forward to support and inspire our Operation Snowball is admirable. He truly embodies Operation Snowball and its mission.”