The purpose of the Welcome Group was to assist new students in the Ypsilanti Community School District with adapting to a new school in a prosocial way. Students were introduced to school activities, met an administrator, and discussed common issues of change and coping strategies to effectively transition into a new environment and school. This prevention group aims to decrease the chance of students turning to the use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs (ATOD) in an effort to cope with stress or to fit in and gain social acceptance.

What students perceived as “a lot of harm”

- Alcohol: 78%
- Marijuana: 46%
- Tobacco: 78%
- Prescription Drug Abuse: 78%

“I learned that there are many other people with the same problems and I’m not alone.”

What students thought their parents would perceive as “very wrong”

- Alcohol: 78%
- Marijuana: 78%
- Tobacco: 71%
- Prescription Drug Abuse: 71%

“I now can explain to my mom how bad smoking is, especially in her condition [pregnancy]. “I learned that there are a lot of effects when you smoke or drink.”

“I learned not to use anything that can get you in trouble, high, or drunk. I also learned that you should love yourself.”

The following become “somewhat” or “a lot better” for the ‘14-’15 participants by the end of the group

- Improved relationships: 92%
- Improved attitude toward school: 92%
- Ability to handle problems: 85%
- Ability to say no to negative influences: 78%