

SASH CLUB:

A Peer-Education Approach to Addressing Sexual Harassment and Assault in School



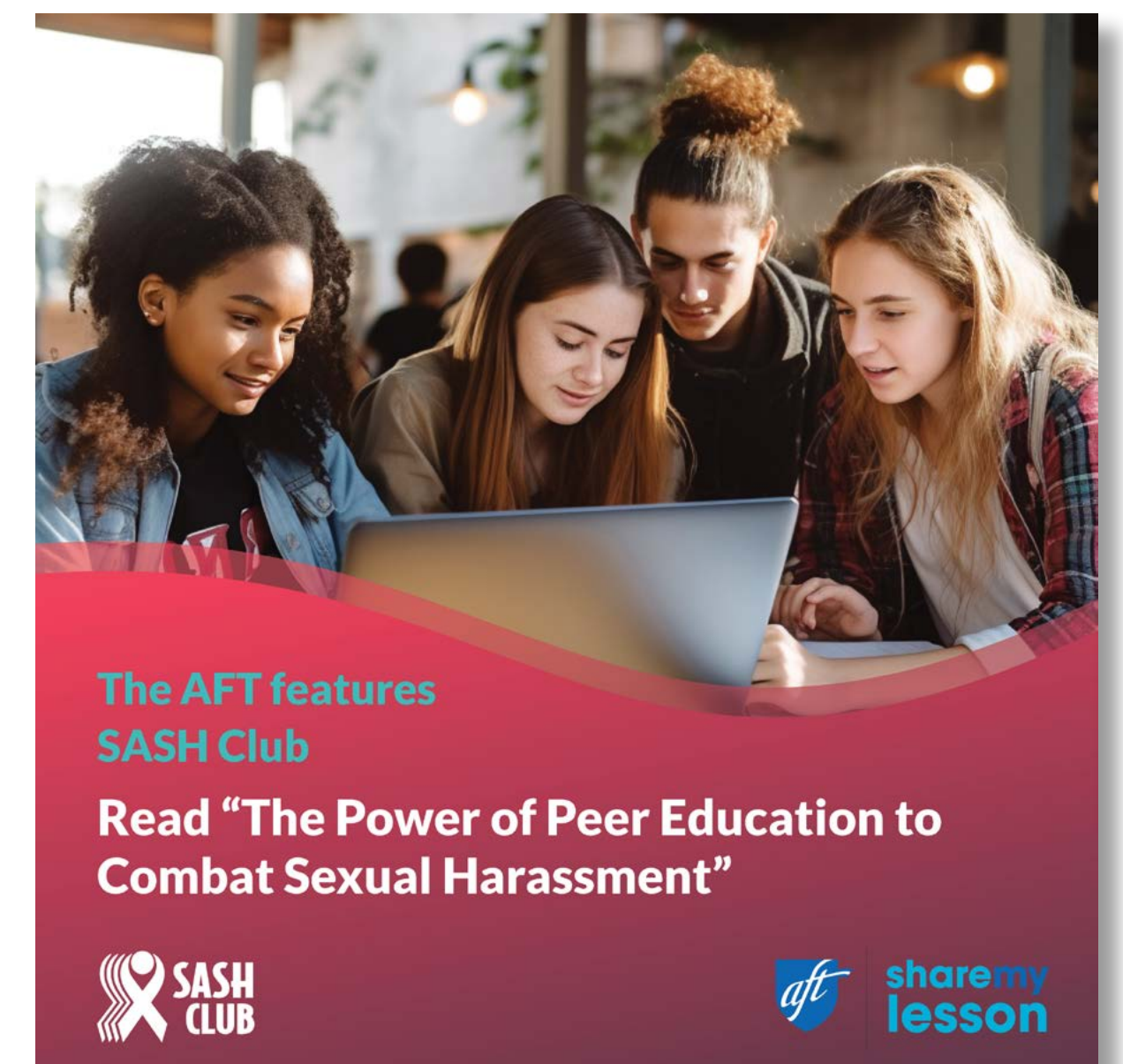
This slide deck accompanies the webinar *SASH Club: A Peer-Education Approach to Addressing Sexual Harassment and Assault in Schools* for the American Federation of Teachers Summer of Learning series. It highlights the benefits of SASH Club to schools and students, provides a unique look at clubs nationwide, and includes links to essential resources for improving student safety both on and off campus.

View the webinar any time [here](#).

Read “The Power of Peer Education to Combat Sexual Harassment,” published by the American Federation of Teachers, detailing why SASH Clubs are a win for students and schools alike.

“Administrators and school staff who want to build positive culture at their schools will find that SASH Club is their superpower in fostering student engagement and participation to improve school climate.”

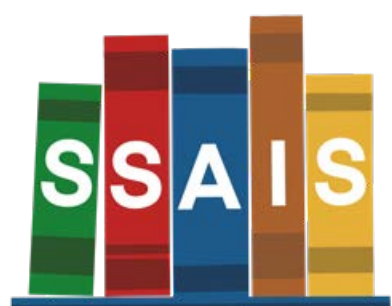
- Heidi Goldstein, veteran consultant to K-12 schools in California





SASH Club:

A Peer-Education Approach to Addressing Sexual Harassment and Assault in School



Otis McGresham, Ed.D.
Prevention Specialist, Vanderbilt
University, Project Safe



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WHAT'S AHEAD

- Introduction to SASH Clubs
- Personalizing a SASH Club
- Navigating SASH Club website
- Resources

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ABOUT ME

WEBINAR

SASH Club: A Peer-Education Approach to Addressing Sexual Harassment and Assault in Schools

DATE
July 31, 2024

TIME
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM EDT

SPEAKER
Otis McGresham, Ed.D.
Assistant Director for Prevention,
Vanderbilt University Project Safe Center



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SASH Club is a project of Stop Sexual Assault in Schools (SSAIS)

SSAIS:

- National nonprofit
- Launched in 2015
- Creates free resources
- Raises awareness
- #MeTooK12 campaign
- Supports families
- Advocacy



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Introduction to SASH Club

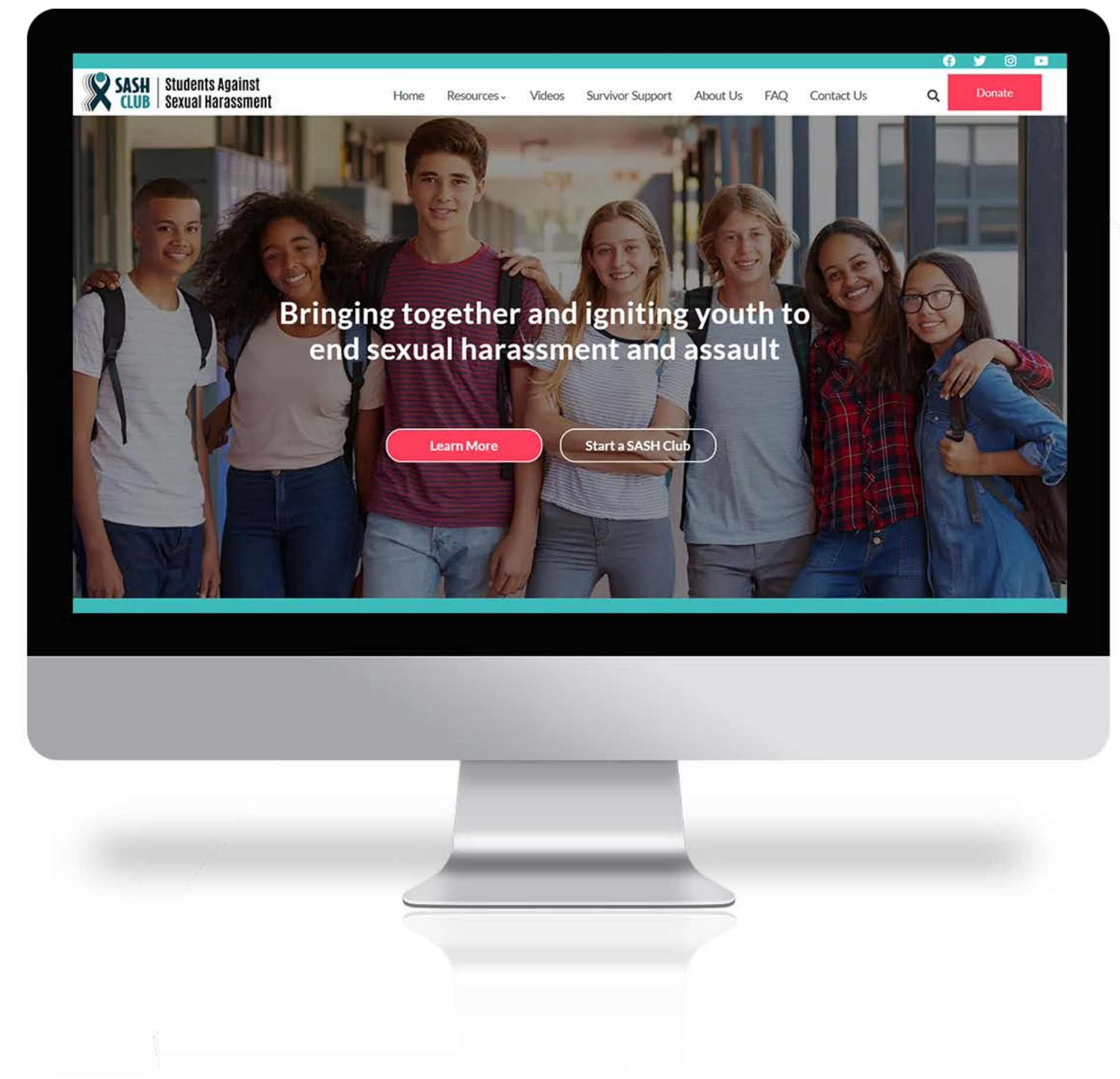
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SASH Club - Students Against Sexual Harassment

- Concept based on the SSAIS video “Sexual Harassment: Not in Our School!”
- Modeled on National Organization for Women’s “Campus Activism: How to Become a NOW Activist in High School”
- Initial website launched 2021, redesigned and expanded August 2023



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SASH Club **introductory** **presentation**

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Chellie video: [Meet Chellie](#)

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What is SASH Club?

- A safe place to learn about the harms youth experience, how to get help, and how to stand up against damaging behaviors
- An opportunity to share opinions, support one another, ask questions, and make friends



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Poll Question

I am aware of an incident of sexual harassment/assault
within my school or school system.

- Yes
- No
- Not Sure

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Tanya video: [Why do we need SASH Clubs](#)

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SASH Club – Power Topics

- 17 informative Power Topic presentations to spark discussions
- Wide range of topics
- Four presentations created with NWLC and Equal Rights Advocates
- New presentations are added each year
- Can be shared with other clubs or integrated into subject areas

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Sample Power Topics

Boundaries and Consent	Sexual Harassment Defined and its Impact on Students	Rape Culture: Ending Victim Blaming	Acquaintance Rape and Rape Myths
Teen Dating Violence	Alcohol & Date Rape Drugs	What is Sextortion?	Title IX Basics
Limits to Confidentiality When Reporting Harassment	Know What to Do When Sexually Assaulted	Supporting LGBTQ+ Students	Activism Basics: How to Advocate, Influence, Communicate, Organize
Sexual Harassment and Assault Happens to Males Too	Sexual Harassment and Assault of Students with Disabilities	Sexual Harassment and Students of Color	Can Dress Codes Harm Students?
			How to Reform or Abolish School Dress Codes

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Where to use SASH Club resources

- Existing clubs, such as feminist groups, gay straight alliance, clubs devoted to civil rights, disabilities, students of color
- Youth-serving organizations in the local community
- Chapters of national organizations: Girls Learn International (GLI) includes SASH Club resources in their curriculum
- Additional activities listed in the How to Start a SASH Club guide and on the Additional Activities webpage can be used anywhere

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Student benefits: Personal safety

- Learn about harms students may encounter in their personal lives e.g., dating violence, alcohol and date rape drugs, sextortion, sexting
- Learn to identify harassing behaviors and how to report or get help

Teen Dating Violence

WWW.SASHCLUB.ORG



Know What to Do When Sexually Assaulted

WWW.SASHCLUB.ORG



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Student benefits: Empathy

- Learn about harms experienced by other students, e.g., sexual harassment of males, students with disabilities, and students of color; understand victim-blaming

Sexual Harassment and Assault
of Students with Disabilities

WWW.SASHCLUB.ORG



Supporting
LGBTQ+ Students

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Student benefits: Social interaction

- Engage in respectful behavior, thereby reducing incidents of sexual harassment both on and off campus
- Learn how to call out harassing behaviors

Boundaries and Consent

WWW.SASHCLUB.ORG



Sexual Harassment Defined and its Impact on Students

WWW.SASHCLUB.ORG



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“I endured the worst experience of my life”

What happened?
The trauma, the courage--the advocacy!

Anna's story of teen dating violence
in the WMC Fbomb:

*“February is Teen Dating Violence
Awareness Month, but the Impact of
Violence is Long-Lasting”*



“

As a freshman, I was swept off of my feet by a varsity athlete almost three years older than me.

The abuse was gradual and escalated. I didn't report. He'd abused other girls. Varsity athletes were untouchable.

I was too young to recognize the warning signs of abuse. I couldn't move forward without professional help.

I endured the worst experience of my life, remained at school, and graduated.

”

“

I completed the end of my college education at home to work through unresolved trauma.

I'm sharing my experience and pointing others to resources by volunteering with SASH Club (Students Against Sexual Harassment). Their [Teen Dating Violence](#) resource details the warning signs I failed to recognize.

SASH Club helps teens stay safe and make change. Join me sharing SASH Club.

”

Student benefits: Elevate voices

- Students can volunteer with SASH Club national level to publish articles like this one in the Women's Media Center

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Student benefits: Elevate voices

- Blog published by student founders on the SSAIS website



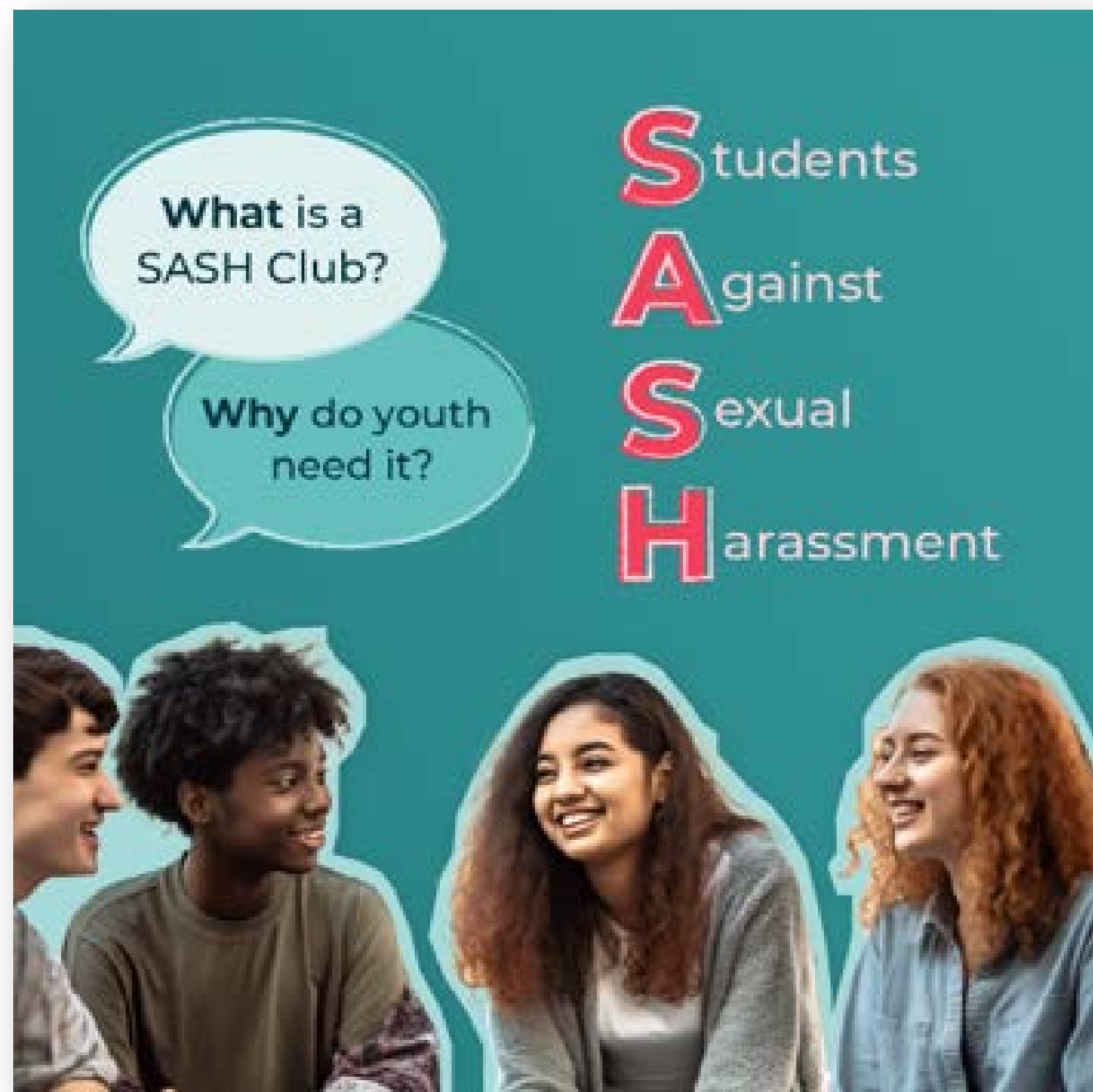
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Student benefits: Leadership opportunities

- Develop leadership skills
- Serve their school or local communities (activities, assemblies, networking with other clubs and community organizations)
- Contribute to the SASH Club (national level) to build their college or work portfolio
- Leave a legacy for the next group of student leaders



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Classroom benefits

- Use SASH Club information to inform school projects, e.g., surveys, history of Title IX, journalism projects
- Experience improved academic outcomes when personal harms are avoided

Try our new interactive!

Title IX Quick Facts 

Click on a topic to learn more.

- What is Title IX?
- History of Title IX
- Impact on the Individual
- Impact on Schools
- What to Do If Sexually Harassed or Assaulted

Find it at sashclub.org on the Resources menu

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School benefits

- Demonstrates school's commitment to a culture of respect and gender equity
- Helps students better understand unhealthy behaviors and how to seek help from school staff
- Provides a constructive way for students to address sexual harassment rather than resorting to graffiti, social media accounts about perpetrators, spreading rumors, etc.



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School benefits

“Administrators and school staff who want to build positive culture at their schools will find that SASH Club is their superpower in fostering student engagement and participation to improve school climate.”

Heidi Goldstein, veteran consultant to K-12 schools in California



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School benefits

“I frequently had to educate the school community on the obligations of schools to allow a GSA (then known as Gay Straight Alliance). The right of students to establish a GSA (or a SASH Club) at school is guaranteed by both the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and the federal Equal Access Act as long as other student clubs are allowed. Educating students on their rights and giving them a voice to rectify injustices is an instrumental goal of schooling.”

**Dr. Bill Howe, former state of
Connecticut Title IX Coordinator**



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Personalizing a SASH Club

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Getting started

View these resources on the Start a SASH Club webpage



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SASH Club has a right to meet at school

The How to Start a SASH Club guide offers steps to take if facing obstacles to starting a club:

- Check school policies to see whether you have met the requirements to start a club
- Explain that SASH Clubs can help reduce sexual harassment and assault that students face
- Explain that the school is demonstrating that it supports students who wish to ensure they are treated respectfully and equitably
- Explain that the SASH Club resources appear in the American Federation of Teachers Share My Lesson Library

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SASH Club in the media

Psychology Today

ed post

WOMEN'S MEDIA CENTER
WMC

Ms.

Catcall

citizen ed

f bomb

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SASH Clubs across the country

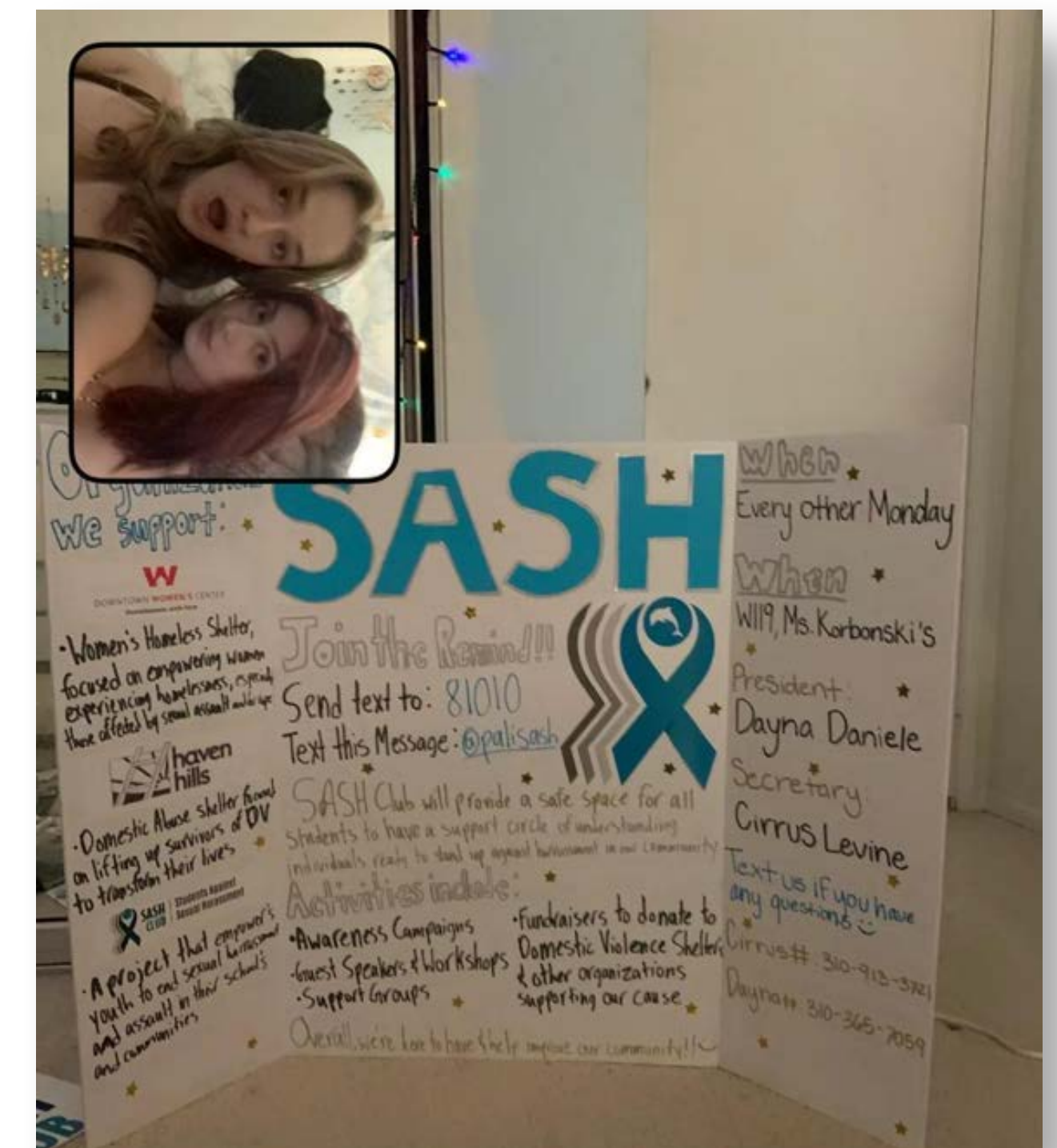
Jordan HS, NC



Coral Reef HS, FL



Palisades Charter HS, CA



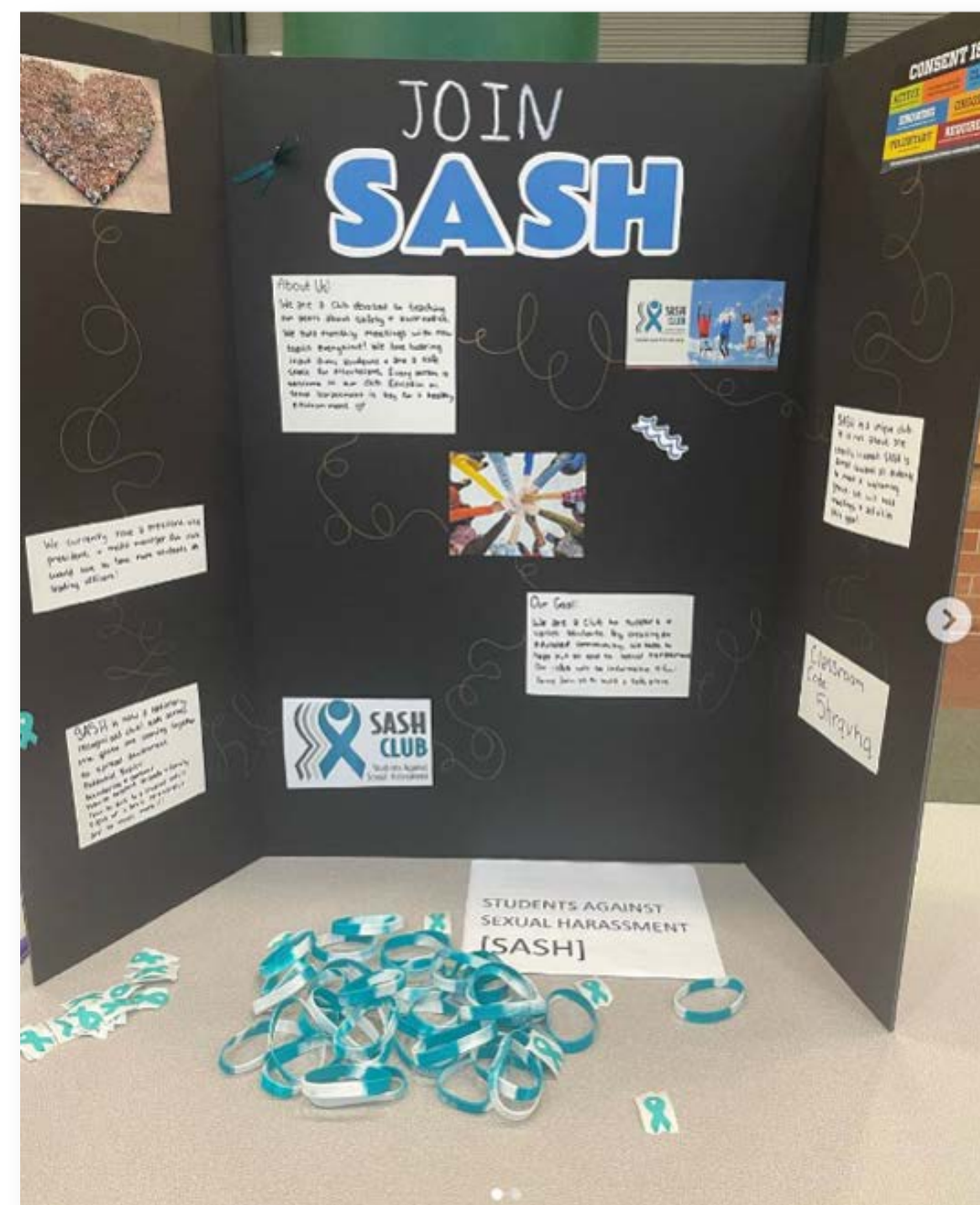
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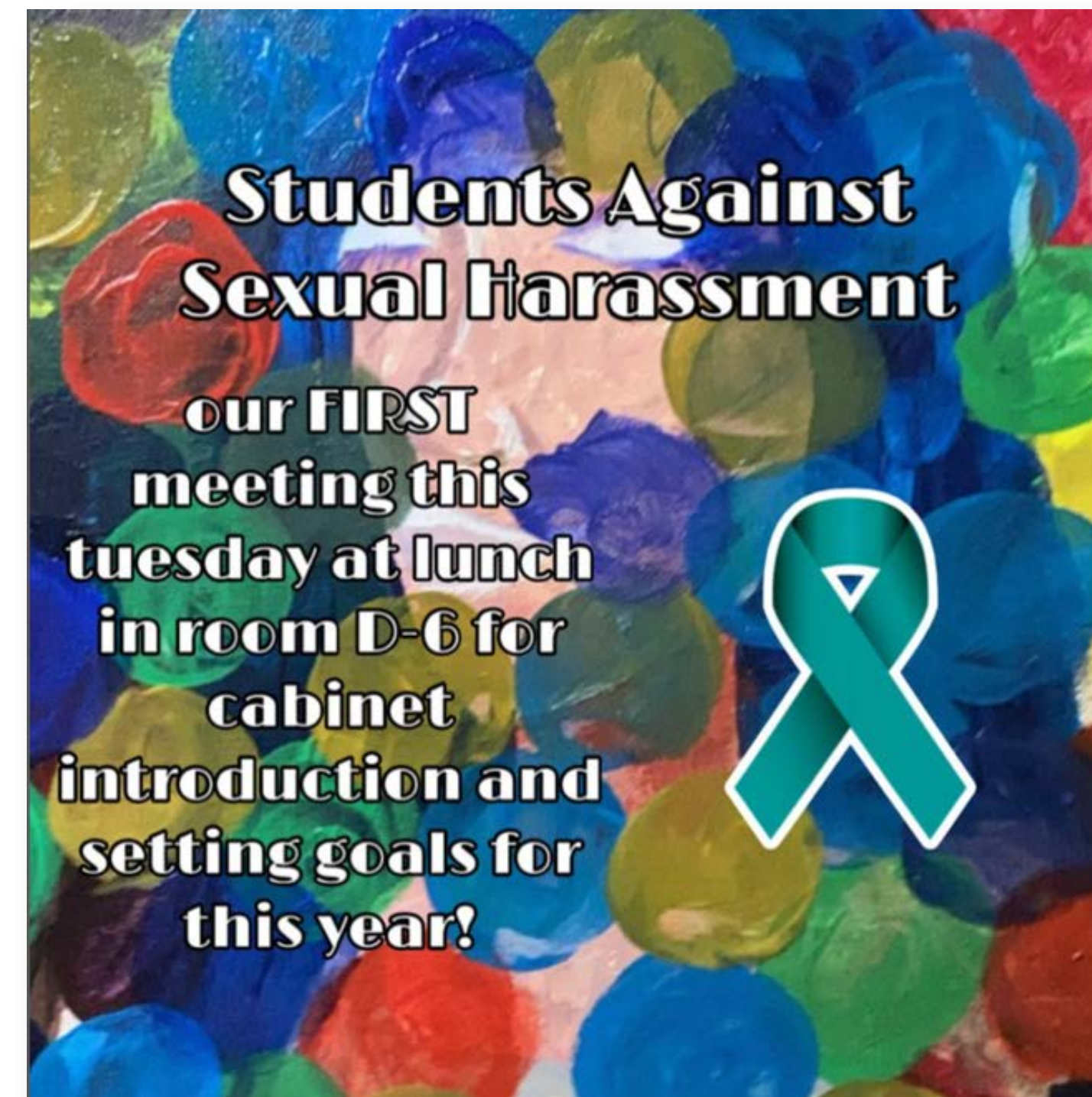


SASH Clubs across the country

Pine-Richland HS, PA



Los Altos HS, CA



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Virtual SASH Club

“Virtual SASH Club is a unique, fun, and interesting extracurricular for middle and high school students, that you can participate in from anywhere!

“It’s fully online, enabling you to meet teens from anywhere, and collaborate to work towards stopping sexual assault.”

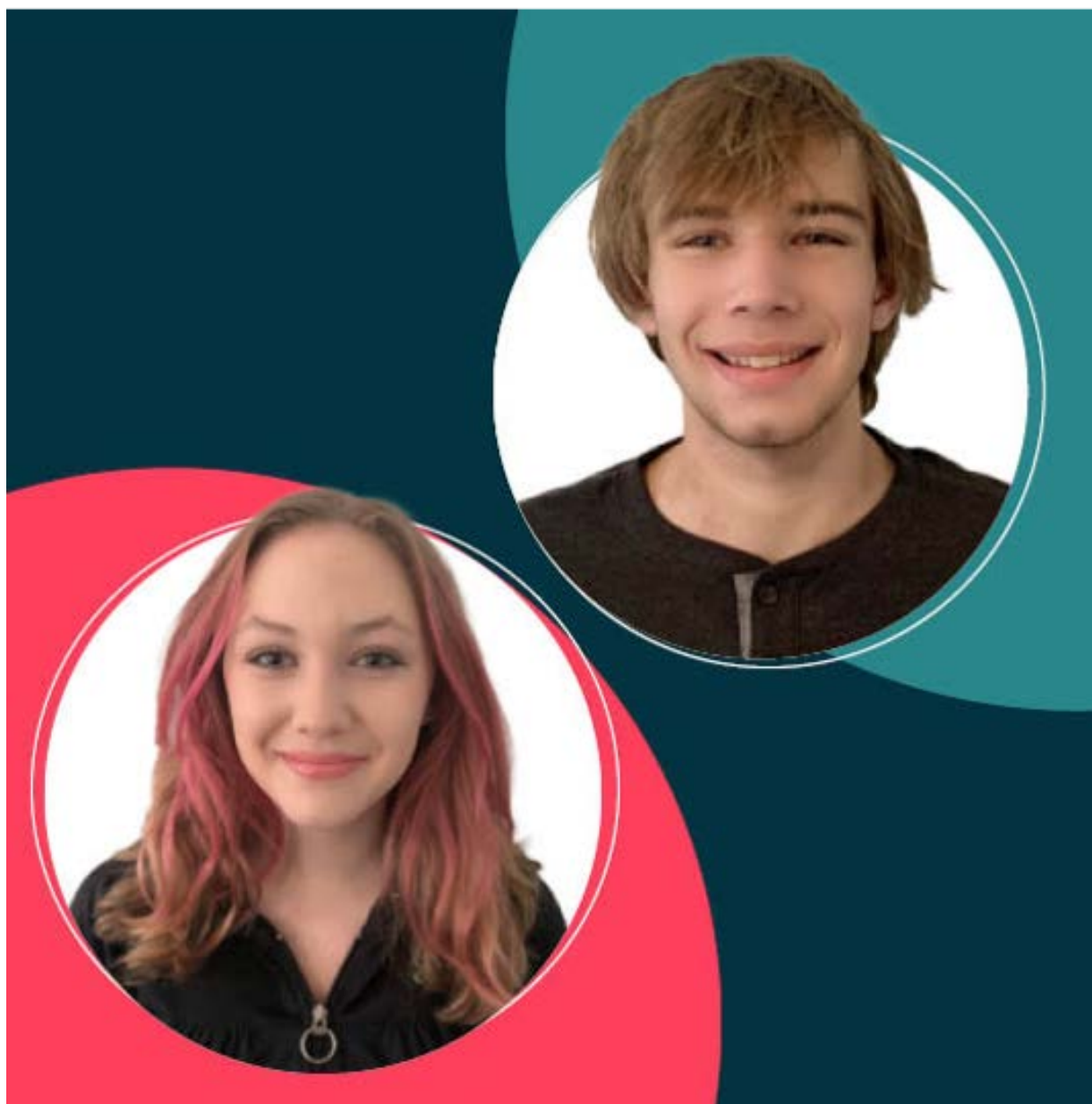
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SASH Club recruitment

Jordan High School students Jane and Daniel Golonka describe how they started a club in their blog, "SASH Club: Shifting School Culture to Combat Sexual Harassment".



Daniel: "We walked around with fliers and donuts to tell people about our club. We also put catchy ads in the school announcements and talked to a writer from our student newspaper about the club. We posted flyers at school and reminders on social media."

Jane: "We set up a table at the activity fair at our school's open house in August. We told our friends, posted on our personal social media, and created an Instagram page."

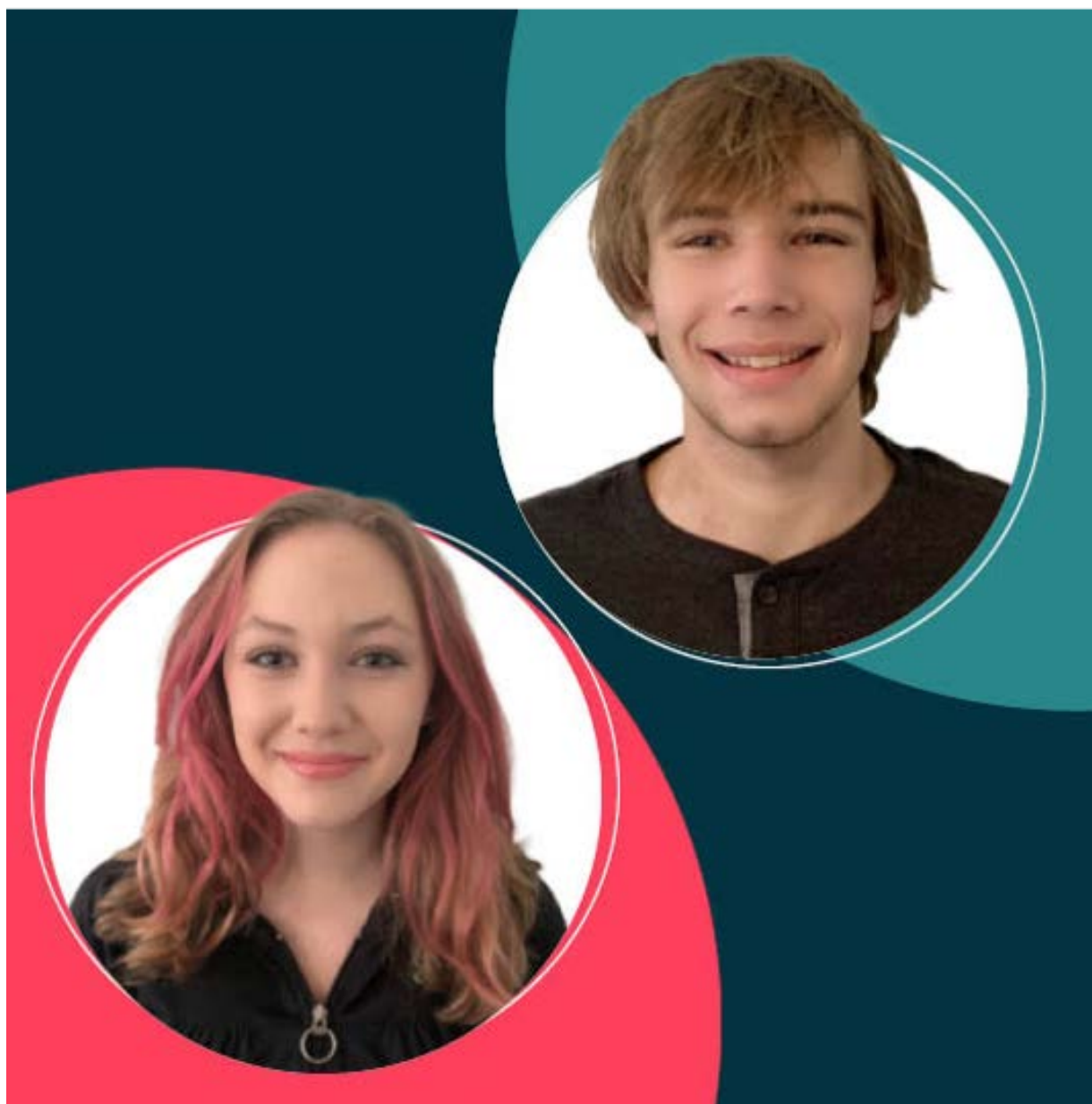
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SASH Club early accomplishments

Jordan High School students Jane and Daniel Golonka describe their early accomplishments.



Daniel: “I’m especially excited about the research and evaluation committee, which will identify issues that Jordan students are most concerned about. It will work to evaluate the impact the club may have on the school climate.”

Jane: “I am really proud of the connections we have already made within the school, in the larger Durham community. It is heartening to see so many people willing to support our efforts. I am grateful to attend a school that supports the club’s efforts from administration to most of the students.”

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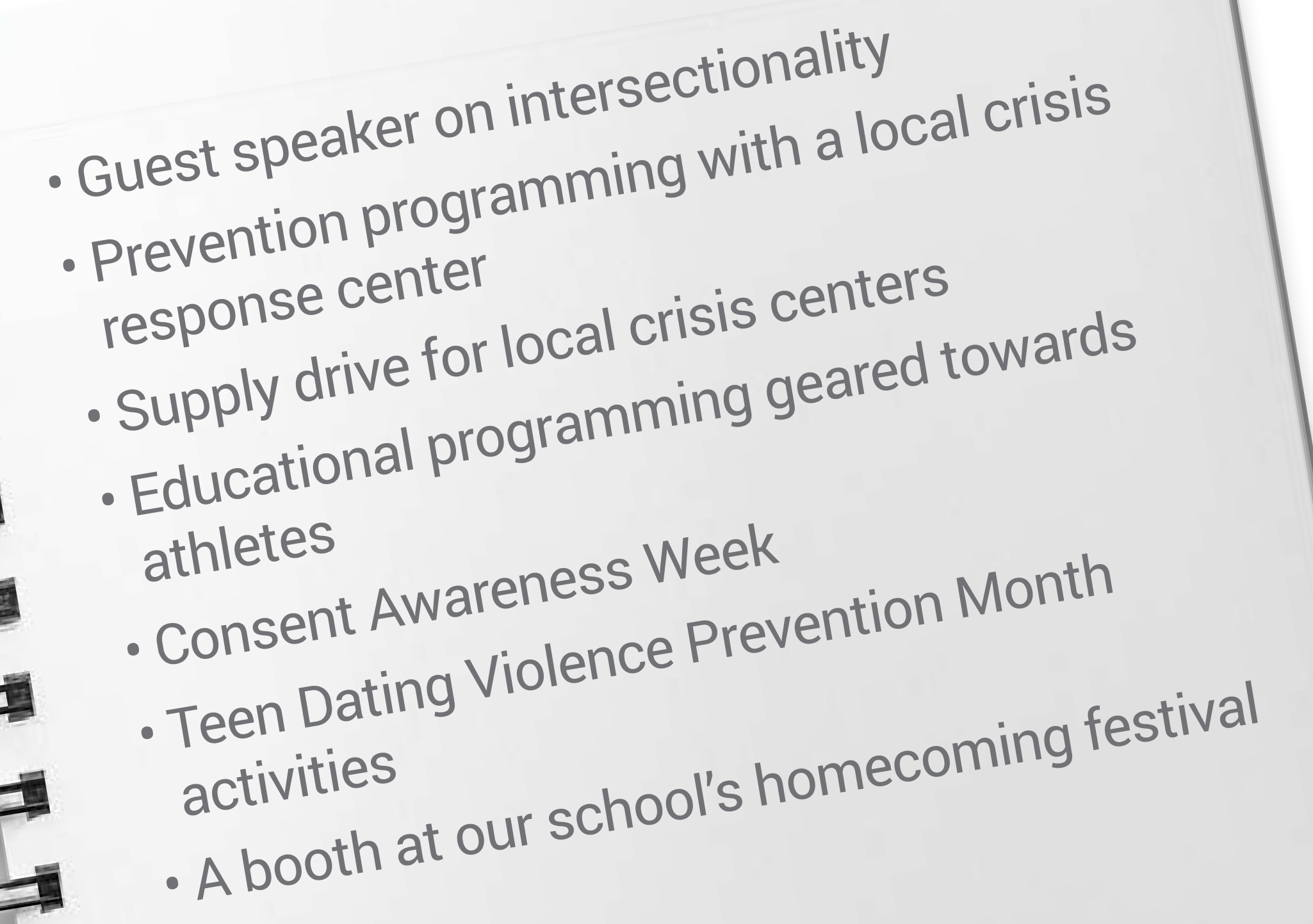
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SASH Club planned activities at Jordan HS



Siblings Jane and Daniel Golonka
founded the Jordan High School
SASH Club

- 
- Guest speaker on intersectionality
 - Prevention programming with a local crisis response center
 - Supply drive for local crisis centers
 - Educational programming geared towards athletes
 - Consent Awareness Week
 - Teen Dating Violence Prevention Month activities
 - A booth at our school's homecoming festival

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Poll Question

How much interest do you think there would there be in
your school for starting a SASH Club?

- None
- A little interest
- Some interest
- A lot of interest
- Not sure

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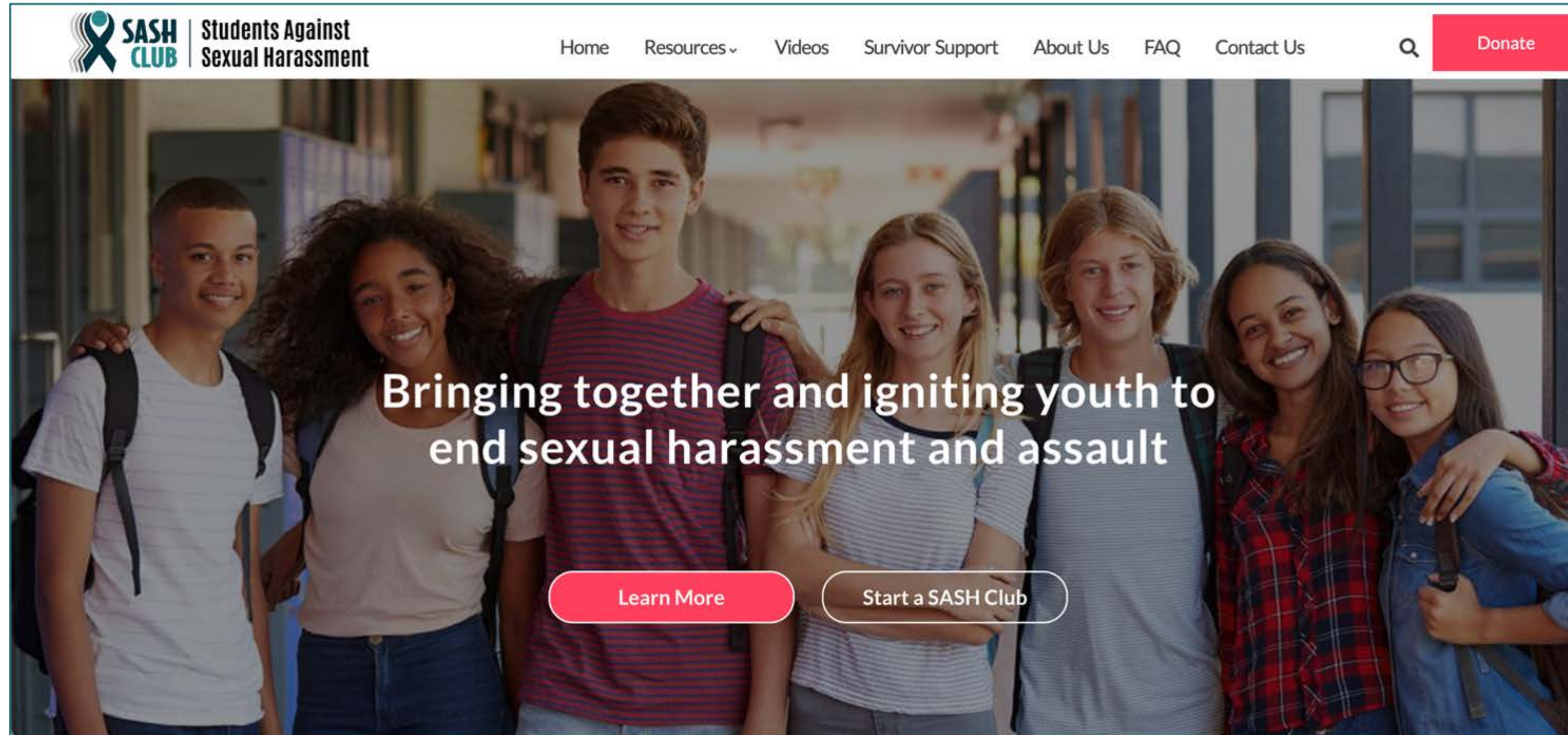
Navigating SASH Club Resources

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Navigating the SASH Club website



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Poll Question

Do I know just the person that needs this information to bring a SASH Club to my school?

- It's me! I am the person who will bring a SASH Club to my School
- It's **NOT** me, but I already know exactly the right person to champion the effort
- I am not sure who would initiate a SASH Club in my school, but I am willing to find out
- I don't think my school is ready for a SASH club

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Video: [Introduction to SASH Club](#)

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Questions and Answers

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Resources

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Interest survey
Use this survey
to help spread
SASH Club

SASH Club Interest Survey

[SASH Club](#) (Students Against Sexual Harassment) offers youth the opportunity to:

- learn how to stay safe, thereby improving academic outcomes and overall well-being
- engage in respectful behavior, thereby reducing incidents of sexual harassment both on and off-campus
- promote gender equity and develop leadership skills
- serve their local schools and communities
- volunteer with SASH Club (national level) to build their resumes

The SASH Club website has everything needed to start a club. All SASH Club resources are free. They are included in the American Federation of Teachers Share My Lesson library and are featured in several education publications.

Have questions? Please [contact us](#).

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Contact info

Web: sashclub@ssais.org

Email: info@stopsexualassaultinschools.org

Instagram: [@sashclubs](#), [@ssaisorg](#)

[SASH Club website](#)

[SSAIS website](#)

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Resources

[SASH Club website](#)

[SASH Club videos](#)

[SML Partner SASH Club and SSAIS resources](#)

[“Sexual Harassment: Not in Our School!” Parts 1 and 2](#)

[SSAIS website](#)

[SASH Club: Shifting School Culture to Combat Sexual Harassment](#)