

## Anchored4Life Goals

All Pemberton Township Schools Anchored4Life clubs follow the same goals:

1. To teach and reinforce life skills for youth to better connect with their peers and community during transitions.
2. To provide growing opportunities to increase competency and character by positively addressing setbacks.
3. To build confident leaders who inspire others by contributing to a caring and supportive environment.



## The Anchored4Life Mission:

To provide proven resources and strategies to children so they can become resilient, confident, and resourceful, to create a better world for themselves and others.

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## The Anchored4Life Program at Pemberton Township Schools

Providing Peer-to-Peer Support for Military Students

Anchored4Life



# Transitioning to a New School Is Difficult. Our Students Make it Easier.

As part of a thriving military community, Pemberton Township Schools is dedicated to supporting our military students and families. It is our distinct privilege to serve military families, and our enduring commitment has enabled us to better understand the unique needs and challenges of the military student.

## Anchored4Life

The average military family moves every 2 to 3 years, and changing locations and schools can be challenging and stressful for students. To help ease the stress of transitioning into a new school, Pemberton Township Schools has established Anchored4Life clubs at our high school, two middle schools, and our elementary schools serving students grades 3 through 5.

The student-focused Anchored4Life program is a national program that works with the military to provide a comprehensive transition and resiliency club for all youth. With nearly 20% of our students being part of a military connected

family, making our military students feel comfortable in their new home is a priority. 100% of the students at our Fort Dix Elementary School, located on Joint Base



McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, have at least one parent in active duty in the military. These elementary students transition in and out of the school regularly, but through the support of fellow classmates, transitioning students are made to feel welcome and confident in their new school.



## Supporting Elementary, Middle and High School Students

Students are never too young or too old to enjoy the benefits of friendship. And while compassionate staff members assist students in making the transition to a new school, only peers can relate to the specific situations a new student may face. When current students share information and express empathy, new students feel connected and involved. In addition, students are also supported when they have to transition out of Pemberton. Journals, REALTALK support groups and kits are provided to help ease the anxiety that may accompany another move.

## Creating Opportunities

Students from grades 3 through 12 enjoy participating in the club and supporting others. And while the club members are busy assisting other students, they too, are benefiting from the program. The club helps participants develop leadership skills, enhance life skills and increase self-esteem, all while helping improve the resiliency of new students. Anchored4Life students share their common experiences and help strengthen student involvement through various activities.

The school-based clubs all operate independently, but follow the guidance of the national club.

Sponsored activities include:

- Conducting school tours for new students
- Creating and participating in service learning projects
- Providing new students with an Anchored4Life backpack and kit
- Hosting REALTALKs on topics specific to new student concerns
- Participating in training to ensure club consistency

