

Why Students Need Middle School Counselors

Between September of sixth grade and June of eighth, parts of a middle school student's life undergo major change. They grow, they make new friends and may grow apart from old ones as they explore new versions of themselves.

Class work becomes more challenging as students develop the skills and sophistication they need to ready themselves for the high school adventure that lies just ahead.

As school counselors, we work to help students make the most of the passage through the middle school years. We are concerned with how well students do in their classes, how comfortable they are in their relationships with others their age and with adults, and how solidly they maintain their sense of self and their values. We also strive to ensure that students are thinking seriously about the future, planning for the best possible high school, college, and career experiences.

We see our role as advocates of students' interests. Our goal is to work with everyone involved—students, parents and guardians, teachers, school staff, and community members—to promote student success.

What School Counselors Do

- ✓ Provide direct counseling to students individually and in support groups.
- ✓ Deliver classroom developmental lessons.
- ✓ Provide education, information and support services to parents.
- ✓ Offer consultation services to teachers.
- ✓ Facilitate referrals to community support services.
- ✓ Advise students on academic planning.
- ✓ Work with students on high school admissions process.
- ✓ Maintain resources on high school options.
- ✓ Work with school personnel to identify areas for staff development and student workshops.
- ✓ Serve on school and community committees to address student issues.
- ✓ Examine data to uncover achievement and opportunity gaps and collaborate on intervention designs.

Thanks to Jana Womack & Kim Hoetmer
School Counseling Dept. Goddard H.S. Goddard, KS

School Counseling: The Inside Story

In the early days, school counselors were known as "guidance" counselors. (Lots of people still use that term.) For many years, guidance counselors had one main job: to "guide" students onto the paths that determined their futures. Some students were guided toward more challenging classes and a path that led to college; others were steered onto a path that led to jobs right after high school.

With that old style of guidance, most students didn't have a full range of choices when it came to picking a career path. And, by the time they got to high school, many students didn't have the preparation they needed if they wanted to change paths and go on to college.

Enter the 21st century model of Transformed School Counseling...

Nowadays, school counselors are trained to work with teachers, other school staff, parents, and community members to ensure that *all* students have a chance to go as far in their education as they choose.

The sky's the limit!

Our **MISSION** is to provide a comprehensive, developmental counseling program to ensure that every student has the knowledge and skills necessary to achieve academic success, enjoy personal and social fulfillment, and have access to wide college and career options.

Our **VISION** is of a school counseling program that is based on the belief that:

- Every student has the right to participate in a school counseling program that acknowledges his/her worth, dignity, and unique qualities.
- It is the responsibility of the counseling program to provide services that are accessible to students of every cultural background and developmental level.
- Our counseling program will be aligned with a model of developmental student competencies for all students throughout their years at the Computer School.
- Our counseling program will support every student's ability to have access to the widest range of career and college options.
- Our counseling program will be informed by the Code of Ethics of the American School Counselor Association.



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Check out our web site:

www.computerschoolcounselors.org



Source: Judy Bowers & Trish Hatch, 2002

The Computer School's School Counseling Program aligns with the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) National Model for Comprehensive School Counseling. It comprises a Foundation, Delivery System, Accountability, and Management System.

For more info, go to:

www.ascanationalmodel.org

The Computer School School Counseling Program

