Elementary School Counseling

**Why Elementary School Counselors?**

For many people, the word counselor brings to mind someone they saw a few times in high school to help them with their class schedules, testing, college applications, and discipline.  Elementary counselors are responding to today's needs by providing children with comprehensive and developmental school counseling programs.

Elementary school years set the tone for developing skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary for our children to become healthy, productive adults.

With a comprehensive developmental counseling program, counselors work as a team with school, parents, and community to create a caring atmosphere whereby children's needs are met through prevention, early identification, and intervention.

**Elementary School Counselors:**

   \* Assist students in gaining the knowledge and skills that contribute to effective learning in school and across the life span.

   \* Work with students to help them understand the relationship of academics to the world of work, to life at home, and in the community.

   \* Implement effective classroom guidance focusing on understanding of self and others; coping strategies; peer relationships and effective social skills; communication, problem-solving, decision-making, conflict resolution, and study skills; career awareness and the world of work; substance education; and multicultural awareness.

   \* Provide individual and small group counseling dealing with self-image and self-esteem, personal adjustment, family issues, interpersonal concerns, academic development, and behavior modification, as well as peer facilitation and peer mediation.

   \* Provide assessment by helping students identify their skills, abilities, achievement, and interests through counseling and guidance activities, and interpretation of standardized tests.

   \* Work with specialized populations and needs that require special attention, such as culturally diverse populations and students with varying abilities.

   \* Develop students' career awareness as a life long process of forming basic values, attitudes, and interests regarding their future world of world,

   \* Coordinate school, community and business resources, school wide guidance related activities, and extracurricular programs which promote students' personal growth and skill development.

   \* Provide consultation with teachers, administrators, school psychologists, school social workers and outside agencies and social services concerning the welfare of students.

   \* Make appropriate referrals for special services for students and families within the school and community.

   \* Communicate and exchange information with parents/guardians by way of conferences, parent education workshops, and newsletters.

   \* Participate as members of the school improvement and interdisciplinary teams and work as liaisons with PTAs.