

# Role of the School Counselor



The primary role of the middle school counselor is to be a student's advocate during the critical years of early adolescence when students are in the middle, caught between two worlds. Emotionally, socially, academically, and physically, middle school students are on a "roller coaster" ride between childhood and the teenage years. They struggle daily with the desire to be independent and the need for parental security.

Students seek a counselor's assistance with any or all types of questions or concerns. Academics, work habits, self esteem, assertiveness, harassment and friendships are common issues of middle school students. Counselors monitor students' academic progress and consult with teachers, parents, specialists and administrators to support student success.

Each student meets with his or her counselor individually at least one time during each school year. In addition, all students meet their counselor in small groups and in classroom settings at which time guidance curriculum is presented. The developmental curriculum, taught at all grade levels, helps to provide students with opportunities for personal growth, encourages academic achievement and reinforces life skills. The sixth grade is split between the two counselors. At the seventh grade level, each counselor takes a full grade and follows the grade through the remainder of the middle school experience. In addition to the counselors, the region employs an adjustment counselor to provide additional support and advocacy to students who may benefit from more specialized services.

When seeking a conference with a counselor, students should give their name to the guidance secretary or make an appointment directly with the counselor. Students will be issued passes indicating the meeting time with their counselor.

Parents are encouraged to email or call to make an appointment with the counselor whenever they have any questions or concerns about their children. Communication is particularly important whenever there is an illness, death, separation, divorce, stress, or other family crisis. Counselors welcome the opportunity to create relationships with parents and partner with them in assisting their children access to their education.