

# GUIDANCE

## K-12

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Globally Competitive

Exceptional Opportunities

Caring Environment

Successful Students

Rocky River City School District

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# DISTRICT GUIDANCE PROGRAM

## PHILOSOPHY

Our philosophy is to be pro-active, preventative and developmental based on stated goals and defined student outcomes. Varied delivery systems are implemented to facilitate development of student competencies. Our comprehensive program is designed to provide a caring environment with exceptional learning opportunities that promote student self-awareness and success in a globally competitive world.

## MISSION

Our mission is to promote and enhance student learning through three broad and interrelated domains of student development. Each area encompasses a variety of desired student learning competencies and is comprised of specific knowledge, attitudes and skills that form the foundation of the developmental school counseling program. The three domains are:

- Academic
- Career
- Personal / Social

Our school counseling program reflects the continuum of student development K-12, recognizing that all children do not progress in a linear fashion. Mastery of basic skills facilitates mastery of higher-order skills. The school counselor utilizes a variety of strategies, activities, delivery methods and resources to promote desired student outcomes.

# BENEFITS

Our counseling program is designed to positively impact students, parents, teachers and administrators.

## BENEFITS FOR STUDENTS

1. Prepares students for the challenges of the 21st century through academic, career, and personal / social development.
2. Relates educational programming to future success.
3. Facilitates career exploration and development.
4. Develops decision-making and problem-solving skills.
5. Assists in acquiring knowledge of self and others.
6. Enhances personal development.
7. Assists in developing effective interpersonal relationship skills.
8. Broadens knowledge of our changing world.
9. Provides advocacy for students.
10. Encourages facilitative, cooperative peer interactions.
11. Fosters resiliency factors for students.
12. Assures equitable access to educational opportunities.

## BENEFITS FOR PARENTS

1. Prepares children for the challenges of the 21st century through academic, career, and personal / social development.
2. Provides support for parents in advocating of their child's academic, career, and personal / social development.
3. Develops a system for their child's long-range planning and learning.
4. Increases opportunities for parent / school interaction.
5. Assists parents in accessing school and community resources.

# BENEFITS FOR TEACHERS

1. Provides an interdisciplinary team effort to address student needs and educational goals.
2. Provides skill development for teachers in classroom management and affective education.
3. Provides consultation to assist teachers in their guidance role.

# BENEFITS FOR ADMINISTRATORS

1. Integrates school counseling with the District's mission.
2. Provides program structure with specific content related to the domains of student development.
3. Enhances learning and development for all students.



# COUNSELOR UNIQUENESS

## Rocky River School Counselors:

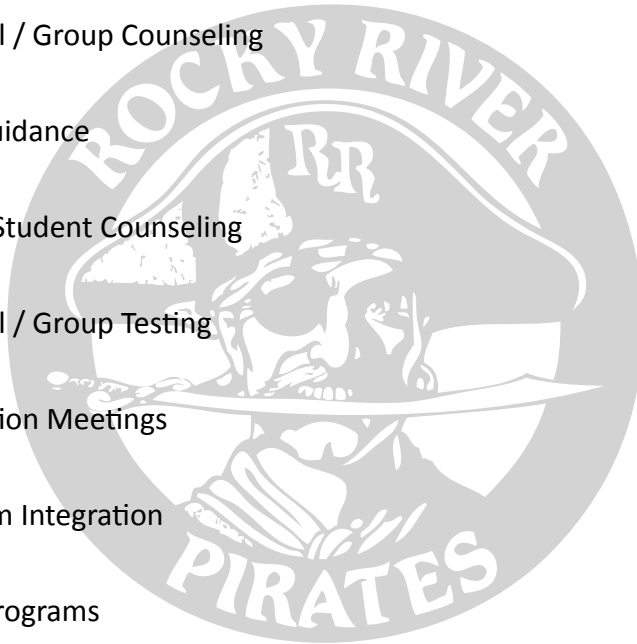
- Provide a safe, confidential place for students.
- Establish and maintain relationships with students and their families.
- Provide the role of the child advocate.
- Foster a special relationship with students, free from academic and discipline restrictions.
- Help students clarify personal issues related to academic, career and personal / social development.
- Meet with students in crisis and counsel one-on-one regarding feelings and reasons for behavior.
- Provide support / referrals for students and families experiencing mental health or substance abuse issues.
- Provide an environment to learn coping skills.
- Consult with teachers, administrators, parents and community agencies.
- Provide a liaison between home and school.
- Discuss parenting skills and creative problem solving.
- Coordinate information across grade levels and disciplines.

# COUNSELOR PROGRAM

The Counseling Program addresses activities at age-appropriate levels of development centered on the domains of academic, career and personal / social development. It recognizes the developmental nature of each individual student and the many aspects of the Counseling Program.

The Counseling Program is delivered in various ways including:

- Individual / Group Counseling
- Group Guidance
- Parent / Student Counseling
- Individual / Group Testing
- Intervention Meetings
- Classroom Integration
- Special Programs
- Community Resources
- Shadowing / Mentoring



# ONGOING SERVICES

- Individual Counseling
- Group Counseling
- Classroom Guidance
- Mediation / Conflict Resolution
- Parent / Student Consultations
- Crisis Intervention
- Community Agency Referrals
- Teacher Collaboration
- Special Program Development / Implementation
- Review Individual Schedules / Grades / Transcripts
- Maintain Student Records
- Coordinate Section 504 Plans & Meetings
- Administrative Meetings
- K-12 Counselor Meetings
- Intervention Assistance Team (IAT) Meetings
- Collaborate with Learning Resource Service Coordinator
- Collaborate with School Psychologist
- Provide Information for Gifted / Talented Opportunities
- Provide Information for Summer Enrichment
- Orient New Students
- Update Guidance Web Pages
- Participate in Professional Development

# **GOLDWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL**

(440) 356-6720

# **KENSINGTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL**

(440) 356-6770

# **ROCKY RIVER MIDDLE SCHOOL**

(440) 356-6875

# **ROCKY RIVER HIGH SCHOOL**

(440) 356-6804

[www.rrcs.org](http://www.rrcs.org)



# GUIDANCE

## Meeting the Challenge

School counselors are professional educators with a mental health perspective who understand and respond to the challenges presented by today's diverse student population. School counselors do not work in isolation; rather, they are integral to the total educational program. They provide proactive leadership engaging all stakeholders in the delivery of programs and services to help the student achieve success in school. Professional school counselors align and work with the District's mission to support academic achievement of all students as they prepare for the ever-changing world of the 21st century. This mission is accomplished through design, implementation and evaluation of a comprehensive, developmental and systematic school-counseling program.

## GRADES K - 5

Goldwood Primary School  
Kensington Intermediate School

## Elementary School Students' Developmental Needs

The elementary years are a time when students begin to develop academic self-concept, feelings of competence and confidence as learners. They are beginning to develop decision-making, communication, life skills and character values. It is also a time when students develop and acquire attitudes toward school, self, peers, social groups and family. Comprehensive developmental school counseling programs provide education, prevention and intervention services that are integrated into all aspects of children's lives. Early identification and intervention of academic and personal / social needs is essential in removing barriers to learning and in promoting academic achievement. During elementary years, the knowledge, attitudes and skills acquired serve as the foundation for future success in academic, career and personal / social development.

\*adapted from American School Counselor Association. <http://www.schoolcounselor.org/content.asp?contentid=230> November 3, 2009

# GRADES 6 - 12

Rocky River Middle School

Rocky River High School

## **Middle School Students' Developmental Needs**

Middle school is an exciting, yet challenging time for students, parents and teachers. Students transitioning from childhood to adolescence will benefit from exploring a variety of interests connected to classroom learning, resulting in practical application in life and work. Middle school students are characterized by rapid physical growth and curiosity about their world. Adolescents will continue developing a unique identity, turning more frequently to peers rather than parents for ideas and affirmation. During middle school years, the knowledge, attitudes and skills acquired serve as the foundation for future success in academic, career and personal / social development.

## **Secondary School Students' Developmental Needs**

High school is a continuation of transition into adulthood and the world of work. Throughout this time students are defining values, evaluating strengths and formulating future goals. They are searching for a sense of belonging, while facing increased pressures regarding at-risk behaviors. Students need guidance in making positive, healthy choices as they nurture and develop meaningful relationships. During high school years, the knowledge, attitudes and skills acquired are the foundation for future success in academic, career and personal / social development.

## **School Counselors**

Through a comprehensive developmental school guidance program, counselors work collaboratively with school staff, parents and community to create a caring and supportive climate. School counselors enhance the learning process and promote academic achievement. School counseling programs are essential for students to achieve optimal personal growth, acquire positive social skills and values, set appropriate career goals and realize full academic potential; thus encouraging students to become productive, contributing members of the globally competitive community.

# SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK

## GRADES K-12

### Students' Developmental Needs

Development of academic self-concept and feelings of competence and confidence is critical as learners move through elementary, middle and high school years toward adulthood and the world of work. Transitioning through developmental stages, students interact with peers, school personnel, family and their community while gaining independence and maximizing learning potential. These interactions, both positive and negative, impact student learning at all grade levels. Students shift from reliance on parents and family for behavioral and social norms, to peers and community, seeking acceptance and independence as they mature.

### School Social Workers

Students may experience a variety of personal, social and emotional problems involving school, family and community. School Social Workers are integral in assisting students with the management of these problems and relationships. School Social Workers are able to address personal, social and emotional issues using an ecological perspective, viewing problems and working to help students solve problems in the context of not only the school, but also the student's environment-at-large. School Social Workers are uniquely able to provide linkages and work with students outside of the constraints of the school building, facilitating the development of resources and supports that may assist the student in addressing issues and problems at the source, thereby enhancing the positive impact and reducing the negative impact of these outside forces on student academic achievement.

## Meeting the Challenge

School Social Workers are certificated education professionals with the benefit of a social work perspective. Social Workers are able to work efficiently and confidentially within many systems, including mental health, social services, juvenile justice and education. School Social Workers are able to focus directly on the needs of students and families within their individual environments, tailoring interventions with the goal of positively affecting and enhancing student learning. Social Workers engage school personnel, cultivate supportive working relationships, adapt to school infrastructure and encourage positive school climate. School Social Workers align and work with the school's mission to support the academic achievement of all students as they prepare them for the ever-changing world of the 21st century. This mission is accomplished through the design, development, implementation, participation and evaluation of a comprehensive, developmental and systematic Guidance program. The ODE assignment states that the personal, social and emotional realms involving relationships of family, school and community serve as the basis for school social work.



# CONFIDENTIALITY

The professional school counselor:

- Informs students of the purposes, goals, techniques and rules of procedure under which they may receive counseling at or before the time when the counseling relationship is entered. Disclosure notice includes the limits of confidentiality such as the possible necessity for consulting with other professionals, privileged communication, and legal or authoritative restraints. The meaning and limits of confidentiality are defined in developmentally appropriate terms to students.
- Keeps information confidential unless disclosure is required to prevent clear and imminent danger to the student or others or when legal requirements demand that confidential information be revealed. Counselors will consult with appropriate professionals when in doubt as to the validity of an exception.
- Requests of the court that disclosure not be required when the release of confidential information may potentially harm a student or the counseling relationship.
- Protects the confidentiality of students' records and releases personal data in accordance with prescribed laws and school policies. Student information stored and transmitted electronically is treated with the same care as transitional records.
- Protects the confidentiality of information received in the counseling relationship as specified by federal and state laws, written policies and applicable ethical standards. Such information is only to be revealed to others with the informed consent of the student, consistent with the counselor's ethical obligation.
- Recognizes his/her primary obligation for confidentiality is to the student but balances that obligation with an understanding of the legal and inherent rights of parents/guardians to be the guiding voice in their children's lives.

## **We believe...**

- Students are the heart of our purpose.
- Student success requires a partnership among family, school and community.
- A Rocky River education empowers values, inspires curiosity and encourages talents that lead to success.
- High expectations lead to high achievement.
- Lifelong learners thrive as they embrace the changing global society.

***An exceptional school district demonstrates all of the above.***



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