

BURNHAM/ANTHONY MATHEMATICS & SCIENCE ACADEMY

Dr. Linda J. Moore, Principal • Ms. Sheryl Freeman, Assistant Principal • Ms. Lisa Krotiak, Counselor

The Role of the Guidance

The purpose of school counseling is to ASSIST the student with developmental problems and/or situational problems that (with a limited amount of interventions) can help the child get back on the right track. The school counselor is NOT able to provide extensive counseling or therapy due to the number of students to serve and all of the other roles and responsibilities of school counseling. **NOTE: If involved counseling or therapy is needed, than a referral to Youth Guidance is in order. In addition, the Social Worker or Counselor can refer the parent to an outside agency that can better serve the needs of the child.** The Guidance Counselor can assist in the following ways:

Individual Counseling Services

- Provide individual sessions for students to assist with an immediate variety of academic, social, and personal concerns. The primary purpose of these sessions is to help students explore their concerns, make appropriate plans of action, and be successful in following through with their plans. This is SHORT TERM in nature.

Group Counseling Services

- Allows students to share ideas about specific issues such as problem solving, peer relationships, and educational planning. They are assisted in using their own ideas to resolve their concerns. Group counseling involves small groups of students, led by a counselor, who meet once or twice a week for a specific number of sessions.

Classroom Guidance

- Meet with instructional groups to help students learn specific information about themselves and their development. Topics focus on self-concept development, study skills, friendship, health habits, career information, character, and life skills. Teachers can also lead these types of activities in their classrooms.

Student Appraisal & Observation

- Primarily as part of the school-based problem solving process, the Counselor helps students, parents, and teachers by gathering information about student abilities, behaviors, and achievement so that they can help make appropriate decisions about educational placement and instruction.

Guidance Curriculum

- School-wide learning goals and instructional strategies designed to assist students with personal, social, career, and educational development that are written into the school curriculum. The intent is to have these goals and objectives incorporated into

daily instruction. School Counselors can assist by planning its integration, providing resources and materials, and presenting some activities and ideas for use in the classroom.

Referral

- Serve as a referral agent to help students and their families receive assistance from other programs and services in the school system and from agencies in the community.

Consultation

- Helping children develop to their fullest potential is best accomplished when people work together. So counselors consult with teachers and parents to plan appropriate services for every child. Typically, this focuses on the needs of the individual child but counselors might present an in-service workshop to teachers about indicators of depression or an education group for parents, for example.

Coordination

- The school-counseling program includes a wide range of services and activities that require coordination for smooth administration and for which the counselor assumes primary responsibility. In some cases, student helpers, parent volunteers, and teachers can be of assistance.

Other Specific Duties

- Assist in managing concerns regarding student absences and truancy
- Management of student records
- Participate in school planning and management
- Assist/coordinate student assessments and tests
- Offer information and activities to assist in the transition process to high school