Introducing the Elementary Guidance Counselor

The Berea City School District has created a guidance program based on developmental concepts and theories that recognizes the uniqueness of each individual. The program is a preventative and proactive one in which students, staff and the community are encouraged to appreciate the contributions, rights, and responsibilities of themselves and others.

Goals of the Elementary Guidance Counselor

- To help students understand themselves.
- To provide crisis intervention when necessary.
- To coordinate the efforts of others with those of parents, teachers, and other staff members.
- To help develop personalized programs based on each child’s strengths, weaknesses, and needs.
- To help students learn to become aware of the consequences of their behavior.
- To encourage students to become successful and self-aware learners.

Guidance Program Components

- **Classroom guidance**
- **Group Counseling** – some examples are:
  - New student groups
  - Family change groups
  - Friendship groups
  - Self-esteem
  - Other groups as needed
- **Individual Counseling** – some examples are:
  - Understanding self
  - Making decisions
  - Managing stress
  - Conflict resolution
  - Other groups as needed
- **Parent Consultation**
  - Parent conferencing
  - Parent workshops
- **Staff consultation**
  - Conferencing
  - Intervention Assistance Teams
- **Community Outreach and Referral**
- **Program Development**

Services provided by an Elementary Guidance Counselor

Some ways in which these services may be provided

- Reviewing student records.
- Consulting about student progress.
- Observing student behavior.
- Facilitating special interest groups for students.
- Meeting with students and/or their families regarding situations in which the student is experiencing difficulty or is unable to function appropriately.

How can Elementary Guidance Counselor help students?

Elementary Guidance Counselors serve the needs of elementary students by:

- Helping students perform successfully in school.
- Helping students build positive self images.
- Helping students develop better interpersonal skills.
- Helping students develop good feelings about work, family and society.

Qualifications of an Elementary Guidance Counselor

- Previous teaching experience.
- Masters degree in guidance and counseling from an approved counselor education program.
- Ohio State Certification/license

When should I call the Elementary Guidance Counselor?

Some times that may be appropriate:

- My child has no friends at school.
- Is my child hyperactive?
- Is my child ready for school?
- We’re getting a divorce.
- What should I expect from an eight-year old?