

THE COUNSELOR'S COMMENTS

September 2023

We are very happy to be able to work with the students, staff, and community here at Brook Park Elementary School!

Our Student Support Services professionals in the building are: Cara McGregor (K, 1st, and 2nd grade School counselor), John Mancuso (K, 3rd, and 4th grade School counselor), Megan Patterson (Student Support Family Specialist), Brenda Knipper (Ohio Guidestone Therapist), and Ashleigh Hamar (Mindfully Therapist).

Ms. McGregor will be working with Kindergarten, 1st grade, and 2nd grade classrooms. Mr. Mancuso will be working with Kindergarten, 3rd, and 4th grade students. We will both help in any way that we can in order to support students and families.

As School counselors we provide direct counseling services such as; individual, small group, and large group counseling. We also provide indirect counseling services, i.e., consultation, 504 plans, and being a resource person for the schools.

Currently I am presenting on Bullies, Conflict, and Drama in each student's 3rd & 4th grade classroom. We go over the topics and ways to advocate for ourselves to help these situations. In each classroom, I hang up "Mr. Man's Choices (conflict resolution strategies), "I" statements (telling someone how you feel), and Mr. Man slips (requesting to speak w/ Mr. Man). After I am done with this round of classroom lessons, each classroom is fully trained to solve and mediate their own conflicts.

We are also making some changes to our Student Ambassadors this school year to better align with what Big Creek & Grindstone Elementary school buildings are doing;

- 1) We are changing our name to Peace Path Patrol instead of Student Ambassadors
- 2) We are allowing any student to sign up for Peace Path Patrol if they are interested. In past precedents, it was nominated by the teacher. I am sending home a letter to fill out and sign if parents/students are interested in becoming a member

4th grade Peace Path Patrol members help with; Acclimating new students to the building, helping to solve "small" problems at recess, assisting the school counselor with small group counseling services, and various other activities throughout the school year.

The school counselors have also spent quite a bit of time being outside at recess. This helps with conflicts or problems that arise during recess time. It can also help to have our presence felt, so students can focus on having fun and not problems at recess.

Again...please contact us if you need help in any way. We provide support to the students, families, and community at Brook Park Elementary School (BPE).

