

What is an Elementary School Counselor?

- **A school counselor provides developmentally appropriate guidance and counseling activities to help students learn and apply skills for success in academics, personal/social growth, and in careers.**

This is accomplished through classroom lessons, small group activities and individual meetings. Individual counseling meetings with students are focused on problem solving and skill building so the student can return to the classroom ready to learn and function positively with peers and staff. The School Counselor does not provide clinical therapeutic counseling sessions, however can provide referrals to local counseling services.

If the school counselor is working with the student on classroom/school behavior, information may be shared with school staff and parents as a team, to develop and monitor a behavior plan. Otherwise, information discussed with the school counselor is kept confidential, unless there is risk for harm to the student or other, or someone has been harmed. The student is often encouraged to share their conversation with parents/guardians.

- **A school counselor is an advocate for students. She provides expertise to help school staff, parents and guardians, and community members increase student success. School counselors make referrals to other resources as needed.**

The school counselor is available to talk to parents and staff and provides resources on various topics. The school counselor can seek out community partners to provide additional expertise and resources to parents and staff when needed.

- **A school counselor collaborates with school staff and parent/guardians to provide a positive learning environment for all students.**

The school counselor is an active member of the school team. She encourages positive interaction, demonstrates caring and understanding toward all students, and provides information to parents/guardians and staff to increase understanding of mental health and behavioral issues as needed.