School Counselor Newsletter

“It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop.” -Confucious

The primary role of a school counselor is to support student success. We do this through classroom counseling lessons (like Advisory lessons), individual student planning (as in enrolling for classes), responsive services (like peer mediation), and system support (as in responding to parent concerns). We support students and families in three domains: academic development, career development, and person/social development. Below is what has been going on recently at Lange Middle School.

Academic Development

IPR grades came home with students on March 18th. Students have approximately two months more to maintain or improve academics. Remember that grades are written in the agendas on page 15 every Thursday. When home and school work together, it equates to success for students.

On March 21st, approximately 40 students traveled to Warrensburg for the Children’s Literature Festival. These students had to read ten award winning books and have book talks with their teachers. This is a great field trip that supports reading, one of our AVID strategies.

March 18 was the deadline for AVID applications and March 25th marked the deadline for Peer Ambassadors. If one of these applications is still in a binder or backpack, bring them in to the guidance office and we will make sure they get to the right people.

7th graders will be going to Science Camp the week of April 25th! We always hope for good weather, but it really does not matter to the students. They have fun learning no matter the weather!

Mondays in March have been pajama days because our students earned that reward by earning enough paws. Students are currently focused on earning 4,000 paws as a building. If the students meet their goal, they will have Switch Day on the early release day, Wednesday, April 27th. Student earn paws by being safe, respectful, and responsible. These are behaviors that support academics for all.

Career Development

In March and April, school counselors will head to Two Mile Prairie, Alpha Heart, Derby Ridge, and Battle Elementary Schools to speak to fifth graders about the transition into middle school. There are no forms to fill out for 5th graders, but we do want to help prepare them for life in middle school.

On March 23rd approximately 40 7th grade girls from all six middle schools within CPS headed to Rolla, Missouri for the first ever Girls STEM Conference on the University of Missouri S & T campus. These girls listened to different speakers and participated in activities which explored careers within the science, technology, engineering, and mathematic (STEM) fields. What a GREAT opportunity for our girls!

Kael Miranda, Regional Spelling Bee Winner. 6th grader at LMS

“Education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today.” -Malcolm X
**Personal/Social Development**

During the month of March, students learned about the importance of a Growth Mindset. The now-popular concept of a growth mindset was developed by psychologist Carol Dweck who authored the book, *Mindset, the New Psychology of Success*. People who have a growth mindset see errors and mistakes as steps in the learning process. They understand that life is all about learning and intelligence is not fixed. In essence, people with a growth mindset do not give up when classes or situations get tough because they know that struggle will help them grow. Ask your student how having a growth mindset can change his/her outlook. 😊

Research shows that successful Advisory programs include elements that create a “family” atmosphere. On Fridays our students have been participating in Advisory Olympics, created by our Peer Ambassador class. It has helped to build community within the classroom as well as some healthy competition.

Another recent Advisory activity was the one pictured below where students shared a little bit about themselves by decorating stars. This got the students thinking not only about who they are today, but also who they can become! What was on your student’s star?

![Decorated stars](image)

**It’s All in a Title**

In Missouri and nation-wide, the term Guidance Counselor has been replaced with the term School Counselor. The following is a summary from Shari Sevier, chair of the board of American School Counselor Association. The name change reflects the evolution of our profession. In the early 1900’s, we were vocational guidance counselors and we focused on guiding people towards career choices. Our jobs, and the systems we work in, have become more complex. Our knowledge base has become more complex as well. It is more fitting, and more in line with what we do, to be called school counselors. We no longer call teachers “school mams” because their jobs have evolved. Home Ec. Has changed to FACS; Shop has changed to Industrial Tech; Librarian has changed to Media Specialist. All of these changes are because of the way the jobs have evolved. We are school counselors…we have evolved WAY beyond the guidance counselor of old.

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