School Counselor Newsletter

Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all. - Aristotle

The primary role of a school counselor is to support student success. We do this through classroom guidance 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**

All students have been working on AVID strategies to help them be academically successful.

In October staff and students worked on inquiry. Inquiry involves uncovering one’s understanding, asking critical questions, and engaging in thinking, learning, and discussion. Some of the strategies used in inquiry are Socratic Seminars and Costa’s Level of Thinking.

In November our school worked on collaboration, which includes teamwork with shared responsibility, the sharing of ideas, information, and opinions, and formal and informal discussions. Some of the strategies used are Tutorials, Philosophical Chairs, Socratic Seminars, Peer Editing Groups, and Service Learning Projects.

In December we will focus on organization: managing materials and practicing methodical study habits, planning and prioritizing school, work, and social tasks, engaging in mental preparation and goal-setting, and strategically and intentionally taking responsibility for one’s own learning. Some of the strategies we will be using include the use of calendars, planners, and agendas, binders, and organizational tools. By the time you read this, winter break will be very close. Use that time together as a family to clean out backpacks and binders and prepare for semester two!

Speaking of semester two…it will be here before we know it! On December 4th, students will bring home their 3rd IPR, giving them approximately two weeks to finish up first semester work. The December 4th IPR is almost like a wakeup call to students that they need to turn in any and all work and have conversations with teachers if they are wanting to improve their grades. We start second semester on January 5th! 🎉

**Career Development**

We have been working with 8th graders to help them discover areas of interest, using the Missouri Connections website (www.missouriconnections.org). Students have taken a career cluster interest inventory to give them a better idea of fields of study they would like to pursue. Of course, none of this is set in stone, but it does help guide students as they plan out their next few years of education.

November 19th was an exciting day for our eighth graders! They spent the day at Battle High School, touring the building, participating in a student panel, watching a short clip of the BHS play, and touring Career Center and Practical Arts classes. Students also were able to check out the media center and eat in the cafeteria. It was such a great day all around! We are grateful to the staff and students at Battle High School and the Columbia Area Career Center for organizing such a phenomenal event. A shout out to our 8th graders as their behavior made us proud!! 😊

Save the date! Thursday, December 3rd from 5:30-7:30 p.m. is the Career Showcase at our Columbia Area Career Center (4203 S. Providence Road)! Students and families are welcome to this experiential open house where you will be able to talk with instructors, participate in activities, view examples of student work and see how CACC classes are relevant to your student’s future.

“It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop.” - Confucius
This is an important event as it helps students to plan out their high school and college careers. This is an event for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. We hope to see you there!

**Personal/Social Development**

The first round of friendship groups wrapped up in November. We feel the groups were very successful as we saw improvements not only in peer relationships, but in grades, tardiness, and attendance as well. There will be opportunities for more groups second semester. If you or your student have any suggestions for future groups, we would love to hear them! 😊

Through a partnership with the University of Missouri, we will be offering our [Desire to Aspire](#) after school program for young ladies once again. This is a mentoring group that fosters leadership and empowers our girls to achieve success. We will share more information with students and families as we receive it.

Following this newsletter is an article entitled, “Avoiding the Helicopter Parent Trap.” After attending a recent workshop on developing grit in our students, I highly recommend this article as I feel it speaks to the needs of our technology-rich students. Research shows that our current students will learn more knowledge from a device than from humans, but they need the adults in their lives to guide them in organizing, understanding, and applying that knowledge to their lives. The adults DO make a difference!

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**Important Dates:**

- **Thursdays:** Grades in agendas
- **December 3:** CACC Showcase
- **December 4:** IPRs sent home
- **December 18:** End of 1st semester
- **January 5:** 2nd Semester begins

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"The best teachers are those who show you where to look, but don't tell you what to see"

- Alexandra K. Trenfor

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