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 December Lange focused on organization. We encourage families to work with students on maintaining this organization. Check your student’s agenda (pages 14 and 15) weekly to keep up with his/her grades. Cleaning out backpacks and binders are great activities in between semesters. Once the backpacks and binders are clean, providing weekly checks can hold your student accountable. Let’s face it, organization takes a consistent focus. By building it into your family routine, your student will develop healthy habits that pay off his/her entire life!

Our school-wide focus in January is reading. Reading is a part of every subject, in some way or another. Strategies we will be working on this month include deep reading, graphic organizers, note taking, and vocabulary building. Establishing a time for reading at home will support your student in all academic areas. Research shows that reading 30 minutes a day maintains reading levels and reading for longer periods can move students to higher levels. Incorporating daily reading into your family life makes a great New Year’s Resolution! When was the last time your family took a trip to the library? Try it today! 😊

The NAEP is coming! Parents will be receiving information in the mail concerning NAEP. NAEP is the National Assessment of Education Progress which is the largest continuing and national representative assessment of what our nation’s students know and can do in core subjects. NAEP is congressionally mandated and was first administered in 1969 to measure student achievement nationally. Teachers, principals, parents, policymakers, and researchers all use NAEP results to assess progress and develop ways to improve education in the United States.

If you should have questions about the selection of students to participate in NAEP, contact Mrs. Woods-Galbreath at bwoods@cpsk12.org or 573-214-3250, ext. 49450.

Career Development

January is traditionally the time when we start enrolling students for the upcoming school year. This enrollment process helps students ease the grade to grade transition, but it also strikes up conversations about career interests and post secondary planning.
Middle school is the time when students begin taking elective classes and have a little bit of choice in their education. The elective classes offered at middle school are one way that our students explore career options. While some elective classes are more popular than others, each class gives the student a taste of career planning. By exploring these classes, students begin to narrow down their interests.

By the time students are in 8th grade, they have explored several classes and are pretty good at telling us what they like and what they don’t like. They are developing their interests! 😊 All 8th graders have completed an interest inventory in Missouri Connections (www.missouriconnections.org) which also helped them narrow down possible career paths. When we toured Battle High School in November, students were able to see specific classes that fit into each of these career paths.

On January 26th from 5:30-7:00 p.m. Battle High School will host an Enrollment Fair for grades 8-11. This is a great time for our students and families to see what classes are available and how they relate to possible future careers. Students and families will have an opportunity to meet teachers of not only 9th grade classes, but future classes as well. This is an event you do not want to miss!

Shortly following the Enrollment Fair, the Battle High School counselors will spend January 29th speaking to our 8th graders about high school and enrollment options for 9th grade. All 8th graders will be coming home with enrollment forms on this day. Then in February, Mrs. Woods-Galbreath and Mrs. Hughes will be presenting Lange enrollment information to our current 6th and 7th graders. Enrollment forms will be sent home in February for them.

**Personal/Social Development**

**Desire to Aspire** is a mentoring group that fosters leadership and empowers our girls to achieve success. Applications/Parent permission will be available in the guidance office. The mentor group will meet on Monday and Wednesday from 2:45-3:45pm **February 1st-May 4th**. See Mrs. Woods-Galbreath for more details and/or questions.

**U Matter** is a club at Lange Middle School teaches gratitude and service and promotes a drug and alcohol-free lifestyle. We meet on Tuesdays after school. In December, the students made newspaper Christmas trees, which they presented to our Lange Nutrition Staff in honor of our appreciation.

Since January is the month to promote reading and reading strategies, this newsletter cannot be written without mentioning our Leopard Lit Club. This is a new club to Lange and has been meeting twice a month, on Thursdays. Club members enjoy a coffee shop atmosphere while they hear from special guests who share their love for reading. In December, our media center specialist Mrs. Alten invited Pastor Alter to share the story of St. Nick and to read “A Cajun Christmas Carol.” ‘Twas a festive event! 😊

Any book that helps a child to form a habit of reading, to make reading one of his deep and continuing needs, is good for him. –Maya Angelou