School Counselor Newsletter

“Success seems to be largely a matter of hanging on after others have let go.” - William Feather

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 April 22nd. The last day of school is May 26th and every day left is an important part of academics. Remember that grades are written in the agendas on page 15 every Thursday. Checking in on student grades not only holds students accountable, but it also is helpful to the parent-student relationship. Students want to know that we care enough about them to hold them to high standards.

We have a published author in our building! After winning Lange’s own March Madness Poetry Tournament last year, Haily Cook submitted her poem titled "Broken" to the 7th Grade Poetry Foundation’s competition. Haily’s poem rose to the top among the 8,500 poems submitted for the contest and was chosen for publication in the forthcoming Poetry on Our Terms anthology. Student-poets from 18 different states will be featured in this anthology, and Haily is the only student from Columbia Public Schools to receive this honor. Haily will attend the contest's culminating event in St. Louis on April 13th, at the Missouri History Museum, where she will read her poem aloud and autograph copies of the anthology. Great job, Haily!

More reason for celebration: Kavion Jones and Ethan Jones were winners in the EEE collaboration with the City of Columbia Water and Light CYTE program (Columbia Youth Teaching Efficiency). The boys were winners in the PSA category and now they have the opportunity to record their PSAs. In May they will be recording their PSAs with students from other schools in Columbia. Thanks to Heidi Barnhouse, their EEE teacher!

Heather Martin, Kaitlyn Siegel, Weston Schleymeyer, and Jaiden Deubner qualified in the Missouri Future Problem Solving competition! They competed against teams from all over the state in February and have won the opportunity to advance to State. The future problem solving process is a difficult and complex creative competition that students have worked very hard to master. Way to represent LMS! 😊

Congratulations to the 87 students who have earned the leopard challenge bracelet all seven times this year! These students are invited to attend an MU softball game on May 6th. Families are welcome to join in on the fun. There will be special prices on food for our students and families. These students have maintained all A’s and B’s all year long and do not have any office referrals. We look forward to celebrating in our GOLD at the MU game. 😊

Career Development

Our AVID Site Team is finishing up interviews for our 7th and 8th grade AVID classes for next year. What a great practice for our students!

On April 26th, Lange Middle School will be celebrating College Signing Day by wearing college attire. It is always fun to see which schools our students would like to attend.

“When you look for the good in others you discover the best in yourself.” - Martín Walsh
**Personal/Social Development**

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. On April 15th, we held the championship in an all school assembly. Mrs. Ferrell's advisory came away with the victory. Mrs. Ferrell reported that her 8th graders really took the lead and built a cohesive team that truly worked together. Way to go!! 😊

We cannot write this newsletter without mentioning our **track team**. The LMS track team is working very hard and because of that hard work and dedication, we are showing up very well at the track meets. Congratulations LMS track!!!

A few weeks ago, our PE coaches asked students, staff, and families to vote for Lange Middle School in the Day Dreams Foundation CPS Bracket. We were competing for a $1000 prize to be used to purchase archery targets for a future Archery Club and playground balls for our classrooms. Thanks to teamwork and perseverance, Lange Middle School advanced, advanced, and finally beat out all the other schools to win the $1000 prize. Thank you for working together for our students! We would have never won without such a collaborative effort. Yeah Lange!!!

**Lange Middle School** we reward positive behavior with **paws**, or our system of currency for the students. Paws can be used to earn whole school rewards, class rewards, or to purchase individual items like ear buds or fun writing utensils. Our most recent school-wide incentive was a second "Switch Day". Students had to earn 4,000 paws, and they have just reached their goal. What this means is that students will have different & exciting classes to attend on Wednesday, April 27th and will not be limited by teams. They will have several core and elective choices for each grade level. This is an early release day, so school will release at 12:05 on this fun day.

**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.**

“When you look for the good in others you discover the best in yourself.” - *Martin Walsh*