School Counselor Newsletter

“Teachers open the door, but you must enter by yourself.” -Chinese proverb

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.

Hard to believe, but it is no longer the beginning of the year! Students now have received three Interim Progress Reports (IPRs) and 6th graders have already moved on to the second rotation of electives. Below is what has been going on recently at Lange Middle School.

Academic Development

WICOR—One cannot visit Lange Middle School without seeing WICOR posted all around. The WICOR strategies are part of the AVID curriculum. WICOR is an acronym for the strategies involving writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization and reading. Ask your student what WICOR strategy he/she has been practicing this month!

As you are aware, students have received three IPRs so far this year, with the most recent going home on November 17th. School counselors have been meeting with students who are struggling academically. Together, the student and the counselor are devising plans for improvement.

Career Development

On November 2nd, our 8th graders traveled to Battle High School where they toured 8 areas of the Columbia Area Career Center and/or Practical Arts. These were personalized to each student based on a career interest survey they took that morning right before they boarded the buses. The possible areas explored were Digital Media, Broadcast Journalism, Intro to Engineering, 3D Animation & CAD, Welding, Principles of Biomedical Science, Construction 1, Woodworking, Teaching Professions, Family & Child Development, Culinary, Foods, Exploring Agriculture, Introduction to Computer Science, Marketing, and Business. In addition to these tours, students also participated in a student panel with senior student leaders, and viewed a sneak peak of Battle High School’s performance of Annie and a Show Choir performance.

All students can learn more about high school offerings by attending the Columbia Area Career Center’s Showcase on January 11th from 6:00-8:00 p.m. This event is held at the Columbia Area Career Center and provides a FREE meal from 5:30-6:00. This is a GREAT opportunity for all Lange Middle School Students to explore options for their future. Not all schools have such a wealth of classes available and we would love our students to see all that is available to them.

Personal/Social Development

All students at Lange receive lessons on Academic Development, Career Development, and Personal/Social Development every week in their Advisory class. In November and December the lessons have focused on Personal/Social Development. In November we covered Suicide Awareness, Being an Upstander, Drug/Alcohol Awareness, Gratitude, Empathy, Spreading
Kindness, Traditions, and Bully Prevention. In November we will be working on Ways to Communicate (so important in today's digital society!), Conflict Resolution, and Citizenship.

Advisory is the first 18 minutes of our school day at Lange. Students are grouped in a multi-level classroom and continue in that Advisory group all three years at Lange so it has a family-type feel to it. While we only meet for a short time, the lessons are important and are developed with the whole student in mind. While there is no academic, conduct, or effort grade for this class, it is an important aspect of our school.

We, at Lange, enjoy working with students and families. If there is anything we can do for you, please do not hesitate to call (573-214-3250). Follow us on Twitter: @LangeCounselor.

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to CHANGE THE WORLD.”
-Nelson Mandela