School Counselor Newsletter

“Education is a gift that no one can take away.” -American proverb

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**
On Friday, October 13th, our second Interim Progress Report (IPR) was sent home with students. This is sent home approximately every 6 weeks. It truly is just a progress report, or **snapshot** of the student’s grades at that time. It does not go into the student’s permanent record, but it is a good measure of how your student is doing academically. The report cards that come home in January and at the end of the school year are the only two grade reports that stay on the student’s permanent record.

At LMS, students earn three grades per class, each with a letter grade, with A being the highest and F being the lowest. The **academic grade** normally consists of assessments: projects, presentations, skills checks, exams, and quizzes. It tells the student how well he/she is grasping the class objectives. The **effort grade** generally consists of practice work, where students are often allowed to use materials. This might include homework, classwork, and participation points. Finally, the **conduct grade** tells the student how well he/she is meeting the behavioral expectations of the class. All classroom expectations at LMS fall under the categories of **safe, respectful, and responsible.** The schoolwide expectations, which are called the **Leopard Code**, are posted in all classrooms, and are also posted in each student’s agenda.

**Career Development**
Middle school is a time for exploration. Each year the students have more freedom of choice in their classes. Although it feels like the year has just begun, enrollment for next year will be here before we know it (starting in January)! 8th graders will get ready for that enrollment by taking a **field trip** to Battle High School on **November 2nd**. Students will tour the building, visit classrooms, meet students and staff, and participate in a student panel. This is a great opportunity for them to see first hand how some of their high school classes will prepare them for different career paths. Parents/guardians can join in on the adventure by marking the **Columbia Area Career Center’s Showcase** on their calendars for January 12th.

**Personal/Social Development**
We tend to think of school as being all about the academics, but there is so much more! Middle school, especially, is a time of great personal/social development. Students are becoming more independent from their families while also becoming much more social with their peers. They may not want to focus on academics or think about future career plans, but they sure do want to hang out with their friends! This is normal! The counseling lessons students receive in Advisory class cover all three areas of our counseling curriculum: the academic, career, and personal/social development.

In October and November Advisory lessons students will be learning and practicing making healthy choices concerning drugs and alcohol as well as developing empathy and advocating for others.

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.