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**

This poster created by our AVID students last year pretty much sums it up! Students are here to learn and LMS staff is here to support that learning. The beginning of the year can be a little overwhelming...especially for our 6th grade families who are new to middle school. Teachers are sending out information and it can seem like a LOT. The good news: you can skim through all the paperwork/emails and organize them into a folder so that when you have a question or need to contact a teacher, you have that information available. We do not expect you to memorize all the information, but if you keep it all in a safe location, it can be an amazing reference!

**Career Development**

Starting in kindergarten, students are developing skills, values, and interests that will eventually lead to the career they choose years down the line. At the middle school level, students will explore possible careers and interests not only in their core and exploratory classes, but also in their advisory “families”. The key to this is EXPLORATION. This is a time to try new and different activities and see what personally fits. Many of the AVID strategies that teachers use in their classrooms will help students to see where their interests lie. Families can expand on this at home. When listening to your student, listen for interests, values, and skills and help your student to see his/her strengths and weaknesses. Middle school is a GREAT time for the students to find out more about themselves!

**Personal/Social Development**

Middle school is a time when your student’s personality really comes out! At this stage in his/her development friendships and peer relationships tend to be his/her priority. This is important as he/she tries to find where he/she belongs. We encourage our students explore interests by participating in extracurricular activities. These may be school related or not. At Lange there is something to do after school nearly every day of the week. We offer clubs, tutoring, and athletic events, PLUS there is an activity bus that will take students home Monday through Thursday. Students will be getting more information about these activities in their advisory class, in September.

We, at Lange, look forward to another AMAZING year, working with this year’s 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.