

Hello! I want to welcome our brand new 5th graders to our school and all of the new students that recently moved to our district. For those that were new to the district, we held a Pirate themed Treasure Hunt to help them learn some of the important places in our school and some of the important people that help make our school so special. I am so thrilled about this year's Guidance program. Since "Single Gender" has been such a huge demand here at our school, the Guidance Department decided to try it out! I will be working with all of the girls in our school and Tonya Stone will be working with all of the boys! Our schedule for classroom guidance will be mostly the same, where she will pull the boys out of activity class once a month and I will do the same with the girls. All of our lessons are based on something enjoyable, for either boys or girls, in hopes that they will encompass better teamwork, positive character traits, and they will have an introduction to career awareness as well.

The Guidance Department will be holding small groups again this year. These will run throughout the school year and focus on the needs of our students, based on a student questionnaire we recently conducted. If you have any interest in this, please contact me or Mrs. Stone. It is our hope that we can help to ease the stress and devastation that occurs during difficult times in our students' lives.

What does the counselor do?

- Sees children individually/classroom
- Works with the students in small groups
- Works with parents & teachers
- Acts as a liaison with outside agencies/ Uses the community as a resource

The counselor helps parents...

- Learn about their child's growth and development
- Understand their child's abilities, limitations, and progress in school
- Encourage a home atmosphere for emotional security and personal growth
- Help child learn to cope with a crisis that may arise within the family (divorce, death, etc).

What are some of the topics covered in class or individually?

Responsibility	Problem Solving	Self-Esteem	Pride
Cooperation	Friendship	Personal Safety	Study Skills
Courage	Initiative	Drug Awareness	Integrity

Please do not hesitate to call me if I can be of any assistance!

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Sincerely,

Jessica H. Yates