

PUPIL PERSONNEL TEAM

GUIDANCE SERVICES: The Middle School Guidance Office is staffed by two certified school counselors, Ms. Shannon Molyneaux, Mrs. Marissa Paulo and a full time secretary. Ms. Molyneaux works with all students with last names beginning with the letters A thru K. Mrs. Paulo works with all students with last names beginning with the letters L thru Z. Three main services provided by the school counselor include advisor assistance, the annual review as well as counseling services.

Advisory assistance is proactive in nature. Through it guidance personnel reach out to students who need help or information. Advisory assistance is provided to pupils to enable them to learn about curriculum options and develop educational and career plans. It is also designed to help students who exhibit attendance, academic, behavior and/or adjustment difficulties.

Counseling services are available for students. Sometimes students need more than “advisory assistance” to resolve a situation, solve a problem or reach an appropriate decision. At these times, students are encouraged to utilize counseling services. Counseling is a process of interaction between the counselor and the student. It is both confidential and goal directed. It is a learning process for students so they will know that they have choices, can act on their choices, must want to take responsibility for their actions and must solve their own problems.

The Annual Review is an individual conference between the student and the guidance counselor. It is an important way of identifying individual student needs in the areas of educational progress and career planning. At the eighth grade level, parents are formally invited to attend their child’s planning conference via a letter mailed home.

SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: School social workers are the link between home, school and community. They focus on family and community factors that influence learning. They provide intensive services for students facing multiple risk factors. Together with counselors and psychologists, school social workers provide counseling and mental health services. As members of the building’s educational team, school social workers promote and support students’ academic and social success by providing specialized services that include the following:

- Individual and group counseling
- Support groups for students and parents
- Crisis prevention and intervention
- Home visits

- Social-developmental assessments
- Parent education and training
- Professional case management
- Information and referral
- Collaboration with other pupil services professionals
- Advocacy for students, parents, and the school system
- Administration and supervision of pupil services programs
- Coordination of services for students and families with community agencies and programs
- Staff development
- Policy development such as discipline and attendance policies

SCHOOL NURSE: The School Nurse is responsible for the physical and mental well being of the student body. Physicals, screenings, immunizations, assessment of illness and injuries and safety issues are a few of the duties performed in the Health Office.

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST: The School Psychologist, covering the Middle School and Senior High School, collaborates with teachers, parents and school personnel about learning, social/emotional and behavior problems. Ranges of services include counseling, assessment, crisis intervention, staff training and parent/staff consultation. Also serves as a valuable resource for information related to current research trends in educational and psychological literature.

CLUBS/ACTIVITIES/ATHLETICS

ACTIVITY PERIOD PROGRAM: This is designed to meet the special needs of students that cannot be met through the academic component of the school day. This program makes a contribution of service groups, hobby, special interest clubs, performance and communication groups, and “future” activities help balance the overall education program. Activities have included: Jazz Ensemble, Archery Club, Weight Club, Computer Club, Stock Market Club, Odyssey of the Mind, Intramural activities, Guitar Club, Student Council, SADD, Chorus, Photo Club, Yearbook, Basketball Club, French Club, Spanish Club, Ski Club, Study Skills, SAVE, Garden Club, Soccer Club, Creative Stitching, Chess Club and Board Games Club. Clubs will change from year to year depending upon student interest.

ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS STUDENT INFORMATION PROGRAM (ADSIP): This program involves middle school students who are trained as peer leaders by personnel from YESCAP and the Tioga County Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse. The students are given drug and alcohol education and trained in resistance, decision-making, and leadership skills. Following this extensive training, students are then available for presentations to elementary and middle school children where they serve as positive role models and provide instruction to younger children about alcohol and drugs.

6th GRADE INTRAMURAL PROGRAM: Throughout the year six grade students participate in a number of intramural activities. The Intramural Program is designed to offer students the opportunity to experience these activities in an organized setting. Basic knowledge of the games and skills development will be learned. Students will compete with one another keeping the emphasis on fun and sportsmanship.

STUDENT COUNCIL: An organization of elected representatives from grades 6 – 8 whose objectives are: active participation in students' affairs and enhancing communication with faculty and administration in approaching school problems. This organization also offers a yearlong program of social functions and community involvement projects for students.

MODIFIED ATHLETIC PROGRAM: The modified athletic program is a means of enriching the competitive athletic program for boys and girls. The modified program is designed to offer the students the opportunity to engage in a more highly organized competitive experience than found in intramurals, but not as involved as those found in a varsity or junior varsity inter-scholastic competition. Modified teams consist of – boys and girls cross country, football, boys and girls soccer, boys and girls tennis, boys and girls basketball, volleyball, wrestling, softball, baseball, boys and girls track and field.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

JR. TEAM:

This group, composed of faculty, staff and parents, plans programs and activities for the middle school community, thus the name JR TEAM. This program began in the fall of 1990 as a response to training by Super Teams, Ltd. The JR Team is responsible for the following:

* ***Safe Homes Program*** - Each year, since 1990, the JR Team supervises the publicity and recruitment of community parents and guardians for the commitment of providing supervision at all parties and gatherings. A pledge is signed for providing a "Safe Home" atmosphere.

. * ***Red Ribbon Week*** - A variety of special events are planned which revolve around a District -wide "Red Ribbon" campaign. In the past, the following have been part of the program: dances, drug free poster contests, Drug Quiz Shows, Reach-out Day, Newsletters, Drug Awareness Month, Drug Trivia Contests, etc... which emphasize the Neighborhood Drug Free and Proud Theme sponsored by the National Federation of Parents for Drug Free Youth

* ***Can We Talk*** - In support of the Worth The Wait abstinence program taught to middle school students, the JR team sponsors the parent component called – Can We Talk? This program consists of two evening workshops presented by the Mothers and Babies Perinatal network and focuses on helping families talk about self-esteem, sex and peer pressure.

MIDDLE SCHOOL EVENTS

ACADEMIC AWARDS CEREMONY: This annual program, held in June, honors students for their achievements in academics, attendance, effort, physical fitness, participation in Student Council and other various clubs. Parents, staff, district and community dignitaries attend.

BARBECUE: In order to promote school spirit and class unity, the school, in cooperation with the food service program, holds a beginning and year-end BBQ where the principals cook for the students and staff.

BREAKFAST PROGRAM: A school breakfast program is in place to provide nutritional support for students to succeed in the classroom. Breakfast is the most important meal of the day, and at the middle school time is allotted for providing breakfast to “jump start” the day.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL: During the last week of school, each class is rewarded with an ice cream social in conjunction with locker cleanup responsibilities. This program is organized through the Honor Society and Student Council.

MUSIC CONCERTS: Middle school students perform in a minimum of three concerts each year. Winter Concert in December, Music In Our Schools Concert in March and the Music and Arts Festival Concert in May.

SENIOR CITIZENS: The District Senior Citizens are invited to lunch in the middle school cafeteria on Tuesdays. At Thanksgiving and during the winter holidays a special luncheon is held with student music groups providing entertainment.

STUDENT PROGRAMS

LIBERTY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM: This ongoing program utilizes referrals from staff identifying potential dropouts with college potential. The key focus is to build a variety of skills- academic, interpersonal, and motivational - in students who would otherwise be at high risk for school failure. The vehicle is a caring adult in conjunction with an ecological model that assumes educational and community systems must be responsive to student diversity, and the need to respect a wide variety of adolescents’ talents, aspirations, and learning styles.

PROJECT RESOLVE: The Resolve Project teaches applied decision making skills in order to help adolescents strengthen their resolve to succeed in school and make better choices in their lives. Students from the Liberty Partnership program participate in a series of workshops held at Binghamton University. These workshops are designed to expand their horizons, build self-respect, and teach ways to deal with stress and cope with emotional conflict. Students also learn strategies and practical skills for handling disputes or other difficult situations they may encounter at home or in school and community.

RESPECT AND RESPONSIBILITY: This committee is made up of a group of teachers in the middle school. The Committee works to develop programs and activities that promote respect and responsibility throughout the building. They are responsible for the Word of the Month, Respect and Responsibility Bulletin Board, student

recognition and compile a list of mini-lessons and resources available to all students that promote respect and responsibility.

PEER MEDIATION: Students are trained to work as impartial facilitators to help fellow disputing students to reach mutually agreeable solutions. As consequences of participation in the Peer Mediation Program, student mediators gain valuable skills and enhance their self-esteem, and disputants feel empowered to manage conflicts in their lives.

STUDENT OF THE MONTH: Teachers recognize two students in each subject and grade level at the end of each progress report card period. One student is recognized for academic achievement and the other for academic effort. The student receives a certificate; the names are posted in the commons area and are printed in the local newspaper.

TEEN SUMMIT: This is a component of the WORTH THE WAIT program that is held yearly for students who have participated in the WORTH THE WAIT program. Students are bused to the Heritage County Club in the fall to take part in numerous activities and events that help to bolster self-esteem and continue to promote health choices and decisions.

YOU'RE ON A ROLL: The main purpose of this program is to recognize and encourage students who may not typically be praised on the school's traditional Honor Roll. These students have shown improvement in effort, punctuality, achievement or attendance. This program will boost confidence for students; lead them to feel pride and excitement when they are recognized for their hard work and effort.

WORTH THE WAIT: This is a program in which students are encouraged to make health choices and decisions regarding themselves. Worth The Wait is an abstinence only program. The Mother and Babies Perinatal Network sponsor this program. Students are exposed to several days of curriculum through their Family and Consumer Science classes and their Health Education classes.

ATTENDANCE BUSTERS: This program recognizes students with 10 week perfect and outstanding attendance and continuing accumulated attendance records for one, two and three years. Students are acknowledged with a letter sent home, names posted on the bulletin board in the commons area as well as certificates presented at the Annual Awards Assembly. This program has shown significant improvements in attendance

POSITIVE REPORT HOME: Teachers are encouraged to mail a postcard with positive comments to the parents of deserving students. This is especially effective for students showing improvement following progress reports home.

HONOR SOCIETY: Richard T. Stank Middle School belongs to the National Junior High Honor Society and recognizes its students with averages of 90% or better as well a meeting Honor Society Character and Citizenship criteria.

DRUG QUIZ SHOW: Teams of ADSIP students prepare for the Annual YESCAP Quiz show where they compete against middle level schools from other districts.

BUILDING TEAMS AND PROGRAMS

CRISIS RESPONSE TEAM: Emergencies in school are paramount issues that must be addressed in an expeditious and effective manner. Schools stand at risk from a wide variety of acts of violence, natural and manmade disasters. To address these threats the State of New York has enacted the Safe Schools Against Violence in Education (SAVE) LAW. Project SAVE is a comprehensive planning effort that addresses prevention, response and recovery with respect to a variety of emergencies in schools.

The Broome Tioga BOCES, in coordination with the Susquehanna Valley Central School District, supports the SAVE Legislation, and intends to facilitate the planning process. The Superintendent of Schools encourages and advocates on-going district wide cooperation and support of Project SAVE. Along with the District wide Safety Team, the Richard T. Stank Middle School has its own Crisis Response team.

The Crisis Response Team consists of the Principal, Assistant Principal, Guidance Counselors, school nurse, school psychologist and members of the school faculty and staff. The Team deals with a wide variety of student and school crises. This Team is responsible for developing the Middle school Crisis Response Plan and is involved in its implementation. The Plan is reviewed each year and after each time it is utilized.

PUPIL SERVICE TEAM: The Susquehanna Valley School District believes that each student has the right to achieve his/her full potential. In response to this belief, the Richard T. Stank Middle School Pupil Services Team (PST) was developed in 1994. The PST is a group of teachers, administrators and support staff working together to ensure that each student receives the services and support necessary to meet individual needs and to increase academic success.

When a teacher or staff member identifies a student who has not benefited fully from classroom instruction, a referral to the PST may be made. When the PST meets, all possible sources of information are reviewed to gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of the student's strengths, weaknesses and specific needs. After receiving input from staff, a plan is developed and a time-line for implementation and evaluation is determined.