

# Middle School Counselors

- ▶ Middle school counselors are educators uniquely trained in child and adolescent development, learning strategies, self-management and social skills.
- ▶ They implement a school counseling program to support students through this important developmental period.

- ▶ Middle school counselors do not work in isolation; rather they are essential to the total educational program. They provide a proactive program that engages students and includes leadership, advocacy and collaboration with school staff, administration and community/family members in the delivery of programs and activities to help students achieve success.

# Direct Services Provided

- ▶ **Instruction** - teaching the school counseling curriculum to students focused through the lens of selected student standards from the ASCA Mindsets & Behaviors for Student Success.
- ▶ **Appraisal and advisement** - assessing student abilities, interests and achievement to help them make decisions about their future.
- ▶ **Counseling** - providing professional assistance and support provided to a student or small group of students during times of transition, heightened stress, critical change or other situations impeding student success.
- ▶ It is important to note that **School counselors do not provide therapy or long-term counseling in schools**; however, school counselors are prepared to recognize and respond to student mental health needs and to assist students and families seeking resources

# Indirect Services Provided

- ▶ Consultation - share strategies supporting student achievement with parents, teachers, other educators and community organizations
- ▶ Collaboration - work with other educators, parents and the community to support student achievement
- ▶ Referrals - support for students and families to school or community resources for additional assistance and information

# The counselors offer support in areas including:

- ▶ Peer relationships
- ▶ Decision making skills
- ▶ Communication and conflict resolution
- ▶ Fostering self-awareness, acceptance, and diversity
- ▶ Teaching time management and organizational skills
- ▶ Crisis intervention for students and parents
- ▶ Academic Planning
- ▶ Individual and Group Counseling