

Newman Crows Landing Unified School District
Parent/Guardian Informed Consent

Student Name: _____ **Grade:** _____ **School:** _____

Your permission is requested for your student to participate in counseling with the School Counselor and/or the Counseling Intern. It is the policy of the Newman Crows Landing Unified School District to obtain parent/guardian written permission for counseling that extends beyond one session in a school year or that is planned on a regular basis. Services may include:

- Individual Sessions
- Small Group Sessions
- Conflict Mediations
- Classroom Presentations
- Crisis Intervention
- Community Referrals

Receiving counseling services at the school setting can positively impact your student by enhancing their academic, social, and personal development. The school counselor helps students become motivated learners, navigate social/emotional issues and encourages them to discuss concerns with trusting adults.

Parental Consent is needed to provide counseling services after an initial meeting with a student. There may be times in which a student may be seen without parental consent:

- A student is visibly upset and school personnel believe the student needs immediate attention
- A student makes a self-referral

Confidentiality is a key feature of the counseling experience. The information discussed during the counseling meetings will not be shared with anyone, except in situations required by law:

1. Reason to suspect the occurrence of child abuse or neglect
2. There is clear threat to do serious bodily harm to self and/or others
3. A court intervenes under court order
4. There is reasonable belief that the information is necessary for the safety of anyone in the school community- students, staff, teachers, administrators, etc.

Although the information shared during a counseling meeting is confidential, parents/guardians have the right to be informed about their child's general progress.

Risks of Virtual School Counseling

There are many benefits of the virtual school counseling services that we provide; however, there are potential risks with this technology as well.

The video or phone connection may not work or it may stop working during the virtual counseling session. Due to the nature of the service, we cannot guarantee full confidentiality considering the makeup of online communication and/or lack of control over end-user security. Platforms like Zoom are encrypted services that are district approved. It is a very secure platform, but we cannot guarantee full confidentiality with 100% certainty. We encourage a quiet and private space for your child where they will not be disturbed or interrupted during their virtual counseling session. The use of headphones is encouraged, if available, to further address privacy concerns.

By signing this Informed Consent Form you are indicating that you understand that school counseling services are aimed at the more effective education and socialization of your child within the school community. These services are not intended as a substitute for psychological counseling, diagnosis, or medication, and are not the responsibility of the school. You are also indicating that you acknowledge that it is your responsibility to determine whether additional or different services are necessary and whether to seek them for your child.

I give permission for my child to receive school counseling services for the 2023-2024 school year. I also understand I can revoke my consent at any time.

Parent/Guardian Printed Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____