

WELCOME TO THE 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR!

FROM: MRS. BAILEY, SCHOOL COUNSELOR

Welcome to a wonderful new school year! I would like to take this opportunity to make sure you are familiar with the services provided through the comprehensive guidance program at Richland and the work of the school counselor.

What does the school counselor do?

Richland is committed to developing students who are academically, socially, and emotionally prepared to be productive citizens. Elementary school is the time when children develop attitudes and behaviors toward self, school, family, and others. My mission as school counselor is to be the chief advocate for children and a catalyst in facilitating a caring and supportive school environment for students, staff, and parents. To that end, I work with parents and faculty to coordinate several school wide activities designed to promote the development of healthy attitudes such as the Character Education and No Bully programs, Kindness Week, and Career Week.

As counselor, I serve as a resource for parents as they seek to help their children in facing academic or personal challenges. Please feel free to contact me anytime you have a concern involving your child's academic or social-emotional development.

The counseling program at Richland is designed to be preventive and developmental, as well as responsive to students' immediate needs. In addition to meeting with students individually and in classroom guidance, skills and information are also taught in small-groups. Small-group sessions may focus on topics such as the development of study skills, friendship skills, decision-making, or coping skills. Short-term individual counseling is available to all students. Students sometimes need a trusted adult to talk with about friendships, teasing, loss, or family change. Parents, administrators, and teachers may refer a student, and students may refer themselves by speaking to me or writing me a note. Parents are notified if their child is invited to be part of small group sessions. Classroom guidance lessons focus on Academic Success, Bully Prevention and Interpersonal Skills, and Career Awareness. I also work to build relationships with and among students by periodically having small groups come for lunch in the guidance room to eat together or play a guidance game.

Please call anytime I can be of assistance to you or your child.

Guidance services are for everyone!



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