

2014-2015 Board of Education Report

What a year we have had as a District Guidance Department! The key word in our department this year has been **“WORK!”** The superior work ethic of the Guidance Counselors shows their commitment to the students of our District. We have risen to the challenges placed before us, and we have exceeded several expectations.

As a group we worked together to re-ignite the District Guidance Advisory Council. It was exciting to offer information to a diverse group of members, and it was equally tantalizing to hear from our stakeholders about what could be done to ameliorate our program. What great collaborative moments we had during our two meetings this year. The council is comprised of parents, former counselors, current students, and other interested community members.

Our District Guidance Counselors have seen a noteworthy rise in individual and responsive services. It is important that our counselors maintain autonomy within each building so that they can be available to students and parents as situations arise. There are a sizable number of students with a variety of problems that must be dealt with on a daily basis. Several administrators have taken a huge leap to guarantee that their counselor(s) have the flexibility to provide services to clients along with offering classroom lessons in a non-restrictive environment.

New Activities for 2014-2015:

- ❖ District Guidance – District Guidance Advisory Council: Deanna Martin and Jamin English co-chairs
- ❖ District Guidance – Camdenton School District Resource Guide: Jessi Koviak editor
- ❖ Secondary Guidance – Implementing the use of High School Majors for enrollment purposes
- ❖ Secondary Guidance – Individual pre-enrollment meeting with each rising 9th grade student
- ❖ Elementary Guidance – Utilizing the ideas of the Leader in Me program in multiple buildings
- ❖ High School – membership on teams that support the High Schools That Work initiative
- ❖ Horizons – conducted more career readiness activities, students earned more scholarships, and more students will be attending post-secondary education opportunities.
- ❖ Lake Career and Technical Center – participated in Osage High and Camdenton Middle Schools Career Fairs, began the College Connections Program with State Fair Community College, and had STEM presentations from Universal Technical Institute.
- ❖ Middle School – sponsored a Career/ACI Fair for grades 5-8, sponsored field trips for non-traditional gender roles, served on multiple focus teams for Making Middle Grades Work
- ❖ Oak Ridge – work continued on Attendance and “Flash Forward Day” (for rising 5th grade students and for advancing 7th graders)
- ❖ Hawthorn – divide and conquer – two counselors working in cinque with each other, establish recess play groups, and created an extensive attendance plan working toward having 90% attendance
- ❖ Dogwood – Attendance remains a focus area
- ❖ Osage Beach and Hurricane Deck – continued success with the Leader in Me program and new construction

2015-2016 needs:

- ❖ Continued work on the District Guidance Manual
- ❖ Hire one or two School Social Workers

Departures: Xann Boyd will be leaving due to family re-location. Randy Sweatt will become the School Psychological Examiner for the District.

Respectfully appreciative of the continued support the Board of Education provides to the District Guidance Counselors!