

## Who is the Counselor?

### The Professional School Counselor:

- Is a certified, specially trained, caring, professional educator.
- Has at least three years of successful teaching experience.
- Has a Masters Degree in counseling or counseling-related field (i.e. educational psychology).
- Is a leader, advocate, and collaborator who promote equity and access to rigorous educational experiences for all students.
- Supports a safe learning environment while addressing the needs of all students through culturally relevant prevention and intervention programs.
- Abides by the laws of the state and upholds the ethical and professional standards of the American School Counselor Association and other applicable professional counseling

### Students see their counselor by referral from:

- Themselves
- Teachers
- Parents and Guardians
- Administrators
- Friends

In times of crisis, no appointment is necessary. For other issues or concerns, appointments are encouraged.

Professional school counselors recognize the need for all students to attend school in a safe, orderly and caring environment. To promote this type of environment, comprehensive school counseling programs include anti-bullying/harassment and violence-prevention programs along with comprehensive conflict-resolution programs to foster a positive school climate.

Round Rock Independent School District

*All children will learn...  
whatever it takes!*

### Your Campus Counselor

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*The mission of the Round Rock ISD Guidance and Counseling Program is to provide a comprehensive, developmental counseling program addressing the personal/social, academic and career development of all students. School counselors are professional school advocates who provide support that maximizes student potential and academic achievement. In partnership with other educators, parents or guardians and the community, school counselors facilitate the support system to ensure all students have access to the counseling program and are prepared with the knowledge and skills to contribute at the highest level as productive members of society.*

*For further information:*

Visit the Guidance & Counseling Web site at:

<http://www.roundrockisd.org/index.aspx?page=73>



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**School Counselors:  
Helping Each and Serving All  
2012-2013**

## What Do Counselors Do?

### **Professional School Counselors Provide:**

- Academic support, including organizational, study and test-taking skills
- Interpretation of assessment results
- Goal-setting and decision-making lessons
- Career awareness, exploration, and planning
- Assistance for students in establishing and completing plans for high school graduation
- Post-secondary planning and scholarship/financial aid information
- Peer relationships, coping strategies, and effective social skills training
- Communication, problem-solving, and conflict resolution
- Collaboration to promote safe schools for all
- Substance abuse education
- Violence prevention
- Multicultural/diversity awareness
- Individual and small group counseling
- Individual/family/school crisis intervention
- Consultation/collaboration/ referrals
- Transition planning
- Parent education
- Consultation with teachers, parents/guardians, and administrators regarding student concerns

Elementary school counselors set the tone for developing the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary for children to become healthy, competent, and confident learners.

Middle school students are characterized by their rapid physical growth, curiosity about their world, and emerging self-identity. Middle school counselors create a caring, supportive climate whereby young adolescents can achieve academic success, optimal personal growth, and acquire positive social skills and values.

High school counselors help students become productive, contributing members of the world community by enhancing their learning processes and promoting academic achievement while helping to develop social/emotional growth.

## Why Contact a Counselor?

- Transition to a new school
- Registration process and orientation
- Academic achievement concerns
- Post-secondary plans (college, technical schools, scholarships/financial aid)
- Standardized test interpretation
- Crisis situations
- Family transitions (divorce, death, re-marriage, new sibling, etc.)
- Relationship issues
- Social/Emotional development concerns



*School Counselors Make a  
World of Difference*

## What is Guidance and Counseling?

The RRISD Guidance and Counseling program is based on:

- Texas Education Agency's *Comprehensive Guidance Program for Texas Public Schools: A Guide for Program Development, Pre-K to 12th Grade*
- American School Counselor Association National Model
- National Career Development Guidelines
- Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills

The four components of the comprehensive developmental guidance program are:

### **Guidance Curriculum**

Includes providing guidance activities in a systematic way to all students, usually through classroom meetings in the areas of:

- ➔ Self-knowledge and acceptance
- ➔ Interpersonal and communication skills/appreciation of diversity
- ➔ Responsible behavior/personal safety and survival skills
- ➔ Conflict resolution
- ➔ Decision making/problem solving
- ➔ Motivation to achieve
- ➔ Goal setting and career planning

### **Responsive Services**

Includes providing counseling to address the immediate needs of students, usually through individual or group counseling.

### **Individual Planning**

Includes assisting students in understanding and monitoring their own development in areas of education, career, and personal/social, usually through the development of academic and career plans.

### **System Support**

Includes providing program management and evaluation, staff, and parent support activities and services, and community liaison.