

Oak Grove Lutheran School Counseling Program Mission Statement

The mission of the Oak Grove Lutheran School Counseling Program is to empower all students to reach their maximum potential in the areas of academic, career, and personal/social development and to help every student realize his or her unique value as a child of God.

What is a Counseling Program?

The School Counseling program is an integral part of the total educational program and is designed to meet the needs of all students. The goal of the School Counseling program is to help students, parents, and teachers develop positive learning experiences related to academics, careers, and personal/social development.

Why Elementary School Counselors?

Elementary school years set the tone for developing the knowledge, attitudes and skill necessary for children to become healthy, competent and confident learners. Through a comprehensive developmental school counseling program, counselors work as a team with the school staff, parents and the community to create a caring climate and atmosphere. By providing education, prevention, early identification and intervention, school counselors can help all children achieve academic success. The professional elementary school counselor holds a master's degree and required state certification in school counseling. Maintaining certification includes on-going professional development to stay current with education reform and challenges facing today's students. Professional association membership enhances the school counselor's knowledge and effectiveness.

Role of the School Counselor

Parents, the press, administrators and the general public often wonder just what it is that school counselors do on a daily basis. Gone are the days of school counselors sitting in their office simply handing out college applications, making schedule changes for students who want to drop a class or meeting with the troublemakers in the school. Today's school counselors are vital members of the education team. They help *all* students in the areas of academic achievement, personal/social development and career development, ensuring today's students become the productive, well-adjusted adults of tomorrow.

Elementary School Counselors Implement the Counseling Program by Providing:

School Guidance Curriculum

1. Academic support, including organizational, study and test-taking skills
2. Goal setting and decision-making
3. Career awareness, exploration and planning
4. Education on understanding self and others
5. Peer relationships, coping strategies and effective social skills
6. Communication, problem-solving and conflict resolution
7. Substance abuse education
8. Multicultural/diversity awareness

Individual Student Planning

1. Academic planning
2. Goal setting/decision- making
3. Education on understanding of self, including strengths and weaknesses
4. Transition plans

Responsive Services

1. Individual and small-group counseling
2. Individual/family/school crisis intervention
3. Conflict resolution
4. Consultation/collaboration
5. Referrals

System Support

1. Professional development
2. Consultation, collaboration and teaming
3. Program management and operation