Westbury Middle School

Westbury school District Comprehensive School Counseling Program
Grades 6-8
Middle School Counselors at a glance

- The middle school counselors are assigned students alphabetically from grades 6-8. Each counselor has a caseload of 300+ students.

  Mrs. Abenie Lazard-Edma  
  Ms. Joanna Ramirez  
  Ms. Chamaine Thomas

- Early adolescents face unique and diverse challenges, both personally and developmentally, that have an impact on academic achievement. To help ensure that they are prepared to become the next generation of parents, workers, leaders, and citizens, every student needs support, guidance, and opportunities during adolescence, a time of rapid growth and change.
The Role of the Middle School Counselor

Purpose

- Middle school counselors are professional educators with a mental health perspective who understand and respond to the challenges presented by today’s diverse student population.

- Middle school counselors do not work in isolation; rather they are integral to the total educational program.

- They provide proactive leadership that engages all stakeholders in the delivery of programs and services to help students achieve success in school. Professional school counselors align with the school’s mission to support the academic achievement of all students as they prepare for the ever-changing world of the 21st century.

Counseling/Instruction

- School Counseling includes structured lessons within the classroom for all students.

- Small group sessions (outside of the classroom) to address student needs relating to social skills, individual student responsibility, personal development and academic awareness.

- Personal Counseling includes one on one counseling for crisis-related needs and identified behaviors that hinder academic, personal and social growth.

- Team Meeting Coordination, Parent Meeting Coordination, SSST team meeting support for all students.
Middle School Counselors implement a comprehensive counseling program

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<th>Individual Student Planning</th>
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<td>Goal-setting/decision-making</td>
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<td>Organizational, study and test-taking skills</td>
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<td>Education in understanding self and others</td>
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<td>Peer relationships and effective social skills</td>
<td>Education in understanding of self, including strengths and weaknesses</td>
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<td>Communication, problem-solving, decision-making and conflict resolution</td>
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Responsive Services

- Individual and small group counseling
- Individual/family/school crisis intervention
- Peer facilitation
- Consultation/collaboration
- Academic and crisis-related referrals
System support Provided to Parents, Teachers, Students, and Administrators

Parents:

- Parent information night
- Communication/networking
- Academic planning programs
- Parent and family education
- One-on-one parent conferencing
- Assessment results interpretation
- Resource referrals
- College/career exploration

Teachers:

- Career portfolio development
- Assistance with students’ academic plans
- Classroom guidance activities on study skills, career development, etc.
- Academic support, learning style assessment and education to help students succeed academically
- Classroom career speakers
- At-risk student identification and implementation of interventions to enhance success
- Parent communication/education
Administrators:

- School climate
- Behavioral management plans
- School-wide needs assessment
- Student data and results
- Student assistance team building
- Leadership

Students:

- Peer education
- Peer support
- Academic support
- School climate
- Leadership development
WHY Middle School Counselors?

- Middle school students are characterized by rapid physical growth, curiosity about their world and an emerging self-identity.
- Through a comprehensive developmental school counseling program, **counselors work as a team member with school staff, parents and the community to create a caring, supportive climate and atmosphere whereby young adolescents can achieve academic success.**
- Middle school **counselors enhance the learning process and promote academic achievement.**
- **School counseling programs are essential for students to achieve optimal personal growth, acquire positive social skills and values,** set appropriate career goals and realize full academic potential to become productive, contributing members of the world community.
- The professional middle 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 is encouraged as it enhances the school counselor’s knowledge and effectiveness.