

August 19, 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Norfolk Public Schools' counseling program provides excellent services for your child. The primary goal of the program is to provide services that encourage your child to be academically successful and prepared for college and the world of work upon high school graduation. School counselors offer a comprehensive program that supports and promotes the academic achievement, career and college readiness, and personal/social development of each student.

School counseling services include the following:

*Academic Counseling*—assists students and their parents/guardians with understanding academic curriculum options available to students, planning a program of studies, interpreting academic testing results, and achieving academic success.

*College and Career Counseling*—helps students acquire college and career information and plan for their futures beyond high school, including college, employment, apprenticeships, and other postsecondary educational and career opportunities.

*Personal/Social Counseling*—assists students in developing an understanding of themselves, the rights and needs of others, how to resolve conflict, and how to define individual goals, reflecting their interests, abilities, and aptitudes.

School counselors deliver services through the following activities:

*Classroom Guidance Curriculum*—a series of classroom lessons based on the Virginia Department of Education's School Counseling standards designed to promote academic, personal/social, and college/career readiness for all students.

*Individual and Small Group Planning*—sessions designed to assist students in establishing personal goals and developing future plans.

*Individual or Small Group Counseling*—preventive and problem-solving activities designed to meet students' immediate and future needs that emphasize the development of positive attitudes and effective personal skills.

All of the information that you or your child may discuss with the school counselor will remain confidential, unless there is a possibility of harm to your child or others. You may review materials used by counselors during the school day. Please call your child's counselor for an appointment.

We look forward to providing these services for your child. However, if you do not wish for your child to participate in the school counseling program, please write a letter to your child's principal requesting that he/she not be included.

Sincerely,



Sharon I. Byrdsong, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

Office of the Superintendent  
800 East City Hall Avenue, Suite 1200 • Norfolk, Virginia 23510  
phone: (757) 628-3901 • fax: (757) 628-3818