

GUIDANCE SERVICES

Through the course of a child's school career, there are various types of guidance services that are beneficial. This would include academic guidance, spiritual counseling, how to deal with learning problems that exist, having someone to confide in that you can trust, and the list continues. It is not financially possible to employ full-time counselors that could meet the various needs of all of our students. However, we are here to partner with our families to be sure the needs are being met. In order to accomplish this, we have compiled a **Resource Notebook** that is available in the front office. Some guidance needs must be met by referring families to a professional in our community. Parents are often directed to this notebook as a place to find information on licensed counselors (for trust issues), psychologists or businesses that conduct psychological testing, references regarding occupational therapy, tutoring, grief counselors, and more.

Spiritual counseling is available through our pastoral staff. Parents may call the office to arrange for an appointment. Students may tell their teacher they would like to talk to one of the pastors, or they can come to the office to set an appointment.

Psychological testing is usually handled on a referral basis as mentioned above. If a teacher detects that a student's academic challenges may be an indication of an underlying problem, the teacher first notifies the academic principal. The academic principal will make arrangements to observe the student, review records, and then consult with parents as to the next recommended step.

College and career counseling is handled through the office of the academic principal. The cumulative records of high school students are reviewed annually, usually at the time of course selection for the upcoming year. This process helps keep students on target for graduation. Sophomores and Juniors take the PSAT in October. The results of this test are used to help students identify their weak areas that need attention before taking the SAT or the ACT. Once a student has registered to take either of the college entrance exams, that student has access to online assistance and information. A Senior Timeline is distributed to the twelfth graders and it is discussed thoroughly. It is also available on the school website under the section Parent and Student Resources, The Road to College. This has information on college entrance testing, requirements for the Bright Futures Scholarship, and links to various websites regarding financial aid. The academic principal distributes a timeline to eleventh grade students and helps them to plan accordingly. The students or parents may set an appointment with the academic principal to discuss academic or college issues.

Located in the high school English classroom is a bookshelf where we keep current catalogs and brochures on Christian colleges, public colleges and universities, and the armed services. Additionally, the students can find information on the ACT and the SAT on this bookshelf. Also located in the classroom is a bulletin board dedicated for the display of colleges and various scholarship opportunities. Students are reminded to keep an eye on this board.

Another exciting service available free for our students is one offered through Florida Virtual School. FLVS guidance counselors offer college admission/career planning advisement. Go to <http://www.flvs.net>. On the homepage see the listing of Quick Links and select STUDENT ADVISEMENT, then select either Career Advice or College Advice.

Additionally, every three years or so, the ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Ability Battery) is administered to the upper level students. The results are discussed which give the students insight to certain career options.