



ARCHDIOCESE OF SAN ANTONIO CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Counseling & Guidance Program

Rooted in the mission of the church, our Catholic schools work towards offering counseling services that provide the developmental guidance and support necessary to help facilitate the intellectual, emotional, behavioral, social and spiritual growth of every child and youth served in Catholic Schools within the Archdiocese of San Antonio.

The mission of the Catholic school counselor is to translate the mission of Catholic education and their school's unique identity and faith traditions into a comprehensive program of highly effective counseling services for students, faculty, and the school community. The primary areas of direct services include counseling, consultation, and coordination.

Counseling

Counseling is provided through classroom lessons, small group meetings, and individual sessions to address a variety of issues that may include the following: character development, understanding self and others, respect and responsibility, social skills, making and keeping friends, bullying issues, coping skills, family relationships, conflict resolution, time management, and study skills.

The counselor may meet with students on an individual basis when requested by parents, teacher or principal. These sessions may address such issues as behavioral concerns, social or emotional functioning, grief and loss, emotional regulation, as well as coping with changes or challenges in the home that may be affecting a student's academic performance and behavior at school.

Coordination

The hallmark of an effective Catholic school counseling program is using a collaborative approach. Catholic school counselors coordinate the development and implementation of the campus comprehensive school counseling program based upon the identified needs of students within the school community they serve. School counselors coordinate classroom observations of students, facilitate educational transitions, facilitate meetings with teachers to develop plans to assist the student in the classroom, and participate in conferences with parents to discuss student needs. At the secondary level, Catholic high school counselors take an active role in facilitating post-secondary planning and the college admission process.

Consultation

School counselors consult with school administration, campus staff, and parents/guardians regarding the need for a student to be referred for services from professionals in our community. The consultation may focus on the need for testing services to assess intellectual, academic, emotional/behavioral functioning, the need for more intensive counseling or psychotherapy, or the need for other types of assessment and services, i.e., speech and language, occupational therapy, physical therapy, etc. Consultation involves working closely with the parents and students throughout this process, reviewing student performance data and standardized testing, providing referrals, offering information about other community services, assisting the family and the school with interpretation and discussion of testing results and recommendations, and planning within the limitations of the individual school's resources.

We are blessed to be able to offer these services to you, our Catholic school community. We strive to further strengthen the school-parent partnership, to provide support to parents as primary educators of their children, and to continue to do all that we can to facilitate the formation of the WHOLE child -- ensuring their academic, social, emotional, behavioral, and spiritual development.

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