



Welcome to Saint Mary's School From Your Caring School Counselors

Saint Mary's School Counselors build on *students' strengths*. We are proud of our students' insights and courage to ask for guidance during challenging times in their lives, and we guide our students to reflect and build upon the *thriving skills* that work for them. Saint Mary's School Counselors provide a *holistic solutions-focused* approach, and as a result, students feel resilient and confident in overcoming their challenges.

We are excited to welcome our new students to Saint Mary's School! In early August, we will email each new student to set a time for a virtual meet-and-greet with one of us. We welcome our parents/caregivers to join this virtual meeting, as well, so we can begin to build a partnership for your child's holistic health and joy.

Warm regards,

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ASCA Ethical Standards for School Counselors

(Adopted 1984; revised 1992, 1998, 2004, 2010, 2016)

Preamble

The American School Counselor Association (ASCA) is a professional organization supporting school counselors, school counseling students/interns, school counseling program directors/supervisors, and school counselor educators. School counselors have unique qualifications and skills to address pre-K-12 students' academic, career and social/emotional development needs. These standards are the ethical responsibility of all school counseling professionals.

School counselors are advocates, leaders, collaborators and consultants who create systemic change by providing equitable educational access and success by connecting their school counseling programs to the district's mission and improvement plans. School counselors demonstrate their belief that all students have the ability to learn by advocating for an education system that provides optimal learning environments for all students.

All students have the right to:

- Be respected, be treated with dignity and have access to a comprehensive school counseling program that advocates for and affirms all students from diverse populations including, but not limited to: ethnic/racial identity, nationality, age, social class, economic status, abilities/disabilities, language, immigration status, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity/expression, family type, religious/spiritual identity, emancipated minors, wards of the state, homeless youth, and incarcerated youth. School counselors as social-justice advocates support students from all backgrounds and circumstances and consult when their competence level requires additional support.
- Receive the information and support needed to move toward self-determination, self-development, and affirmation within one's group identities. Special care is given to improve overall educational outcomes for students who have been historically underserved in educational service.
- Receive critical, timely information on college, career, and postsecondary options and understand the full magnitude and meaning of how college and career readiness can have an impact on their educational choices and future opportunities.
- Privacy that should be honored to the greatest extent possible, while balancing other competing interests (e.g., best interests of students, safety of others, parental rights) and adhering to laws, policies, and ethical standards pertaining to confidentiality and disclosure in the school setting.
- A safe school environment promoting autonomy and injustice and free from abuse, bullying, harassment, and other forms of violence.